

## Sudanese government to swear in today

KHARTOUM (R) — The swearing-in of a new 23-member cabinet in Sudan has been postponed for 24 hours. Supreme Council Member Ali Hassan Tajeldin said Friday. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi formed the new coalition after a four-week dispute with the army which wanted more backing for its war effort in south Sudan or peace with anti-government rebels there. He has submitted a list of ministers to the five-member Supreme Council, Sudan's collective presidency. Tajeldin told reporters gathered at the presidential palace for the scheduled ceremony that there were no last-minute differences preventing the swearing-in ceremony going ahead. He gave no reason for the delay except to say that head of state Ahmed Ali Al Mahdi was feeling unwell. "The Supreme Council will meet and the ministers will be sworn in at noon," he said. Mahdi has said the new coalition, including his Umma Party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), southern Sudanese parties, Communists and trade union representatives, will be dedicated to peace. The National Islamic Front (NIF), the third largest party, is boycotting the government on the grounds that it is not committed to implementing Islamic Sharia Laws.

# Jordan Times

An independent daily newspaper published by the Jordan Press Syndicate  
جوردان تايمز جازمعة مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

## King Fahd to visit Egypt, Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd plunges into the heart of Middle East politics and diplomacy when he sets out Saturday for a six-day visit to Iraq and Egypt. The trip — his first as Monarch to the two countries — takes on particular significance at a time of Egypt's reintegration into the Arab World and the emergence of a Baghdad-Cairo diplomatic and economic axis. Saudi Arabia was a strong diplomatic and financial supporter of Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran. An Arab diplomat in Baghdad said the main topics there would be the situation in the Gulf and the deadlock in peace talks since last August's ceasefire in the war with Iran. King Fahd and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein were also expected to discuss newly emergent economic blocs on the region, and possibly Saudi efforts to mediate between Iraq and Syria. For Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the king's backing will provide welcome diplomatic clout when Mubarak visits Washington next month to discuss the Middle East with the new Bush administration. "The visit to Egypt should help Mubarak inject more meaning into his relations with Washington in terms of Middle East peace," said Salama Ahmad Salama, managing editor of Egypt's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper.

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## Jordan shelves Tornado deal

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Thursday it had shelved plans to buy Tornado fighter aircraft from Britain. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who is also defence minister, told Reuters the \$400-million (\$690-million) deal had been postponed until Jordan's finances improved. "We recently informed the British government that we would like to postpone negotiations on the purchase of the Tornados due to the current financial situation we are facing," he said. "The British government understood and accepted."



Zaid Rifai

Rifai said Jordan was proceeding with a contract signed last year for 12 French-built Mirage 2000 jets, but had not yet taken up an option to buy eight more. He dismissed as nonsense allegations in Britain's Observer newspaper that commissions might have been paid to secure the Tornado deal, which was signed in September. "It's stupid to talk of commissions being paid because there is no deal," he said. "The Jordanian government was negotiating

as with any other deal with the Defence Department in the U.K. Our law forbids the purchase of arms through agents and no commissions are ever paid." Rifai said the Tornado deal would have cost about \$400 million for the aircraft, munitions, spare parts and training programmes. Jordan turned to European suppliers to re-equip its air force

and bought some Soviet anti-aircraft equipment after the U.S. Congress blocked a \$1.9-billion sale of F-16s and other weapons in early 1986.

Israeli supporters in Congress opposed the sale on the grounds that Jordan was still at war with the Jewish state.

Jordanian bankers welcomed the move to postpone the Tornado purchase, saying it would save valuable foreign exchange.

"We are very happy to hear that. It means less external debt and that is good for the country," one banker said.

"It's excellent news," said another banker. "It's a wise and realistic decision."

A Jordanian official stressed that postponement did not mean cancellation and said Amman retained an option to buy.

"The government will remain determined to keep modernising its air force," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"While we believe our country needs to develop its air defence capabilities, there are other urgent priorities at present."



HM King Hussein

## Al Hussein to visit U.S. on May 2

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein begins an official visit to Washington during the first week of May for formal talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior administration officials.

The King's talks with Bush will be part of exploratory talks the U.S. administration is launching with Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

The White House announced that Bush is scheduled to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on April 3, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on April 6, while the King's talks are set for May 2.

The King met briefly with Bush last month in Tokyo. Jordan hopes Washington would assume a more prominent role in the Middle East peace process and encourage Israel to attend a proposed international peace conference.

The King had repeatedly stressed there was no need for new initiatives to solve the Middle East problem. He urged Israel to accept universally accepted solutions for the problem through a U.N.-sponsored peace conference to negotiate the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday Bush did not plan any new U.S. initiative in meetings with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

But he said changing circumstances in the region including the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the resumption of talks between Washington and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had created a willingness to listen to new approaches.

"The timing seems right for us in terms of a kind of openness to look anew at the opportunities," Fitzwater said.

He said Bush would be seeking input from the regional leaders on how to promote peace prospects.

"I would expect the president to discuss with these leaders the feelings in their countries about what progress can be made and what course should be taken," he added.

The spokesman declined to say whether Bush would urge Shamir to reconsider his refusal to hold talks with the PLO.

The talks in Washington come in the wake of reports that the Israeli Labour Party was reasserting its position of seeking a territorial compromise through peaceful negotiations with neighbouring states.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said recently that Israel might ultimately need to talk with PLO representatives. He repeated his position Tuesday in testimony to a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee saying there was no need to paper over American differences with Israel.

"We do have, and have had for a long time, some differences, which we discuss from time to time with our ally. For instance, we believe in land for peace as a solution to the problems in the Middle East," Baker said in a signal to Shamir that Washington is unhappy with the Israeli government's reluctance to make territorial concessions.

## 13 Palestinians injured in clashes with Israelis

# Official death toll reaches 407 as 2 more die in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Two Palestinians died of gunshot wounds sustained in earlier clashes and 13 Arabs were injured in clashes Friday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arab reports said.

Meanwhile a public opinion survey published Friday indicated Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has the backing of a narrow majority of Israelis behind his refusal to talk to the PLO.

The fatalities raised the Arab death toll in the 15-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation to 407.

Among the injured was a four-month-old baby girl hit in the head by a rubber bullet in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan Quarter, Arab news reports said. An official at Alhli Arab Hospital said the infant was in moderate condition.

The army confirmed one death from a clash in the West Bank town of Tulkarem and was checking other reports of deaths and injuries.

Friday's survey by the independent Modan-Ezrahi polling group gave Shamir a boost for his trip April 5 to Washington, where he is expected to face pressures by American leaders to drop Israel's refusal to speak to the PLO.

The poll showed 56 per cent of 1,251 randomly-selected Israeli Jews said "no" when asked during the second week of March: "Do you believe there is room for negotiating with the PLO and if so, towards what end?"

The survey's margin of error

was given at plus or minus 2 per cent.

The results contrasted with findings of a separate survey conducted last December which showed 54 per cent of Israelis favoured talks with the PLO, but under the condition it dropped attacks against Israel.

Rachael Israeli of Modan-Ezrahi said the reason for the change was that the new survey simply asked about talks without mentioning an end to attacks or any other condition.

Israeli news reports have said the Bush administration planned to propose a first stage of negotiations with Palestinians in the occupied territories, with the PLO joining talks later on the final status of the territories.

Meanwhile, the Israeli daily Hadashot said Shamir was considering asking the Shin Bet secret police to investigate a leak last week of a secret military assessment that concluded there were no non-PLO Palestinians with whom Israel could negotiate peace. A Shamir aide denied the report.

In the occupied territories, seven Palestinian leaders in the West Bank city of Nablus received threats of death if they continued meeting Israeli officials about Middle East peace prospects, Arab sources said.

The death threats reported Friday involved two masked Arab youths from a PLO faction who visited the Palestinian on March 17, according to Arab sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The faction was identified as the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by George Habash.

The Jerusalem Post daily said the men were threatened at knife

point and that among them were supporters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, including Dr. Hatem Abu Ghazaleh, an ex-member of the Nablus City Council.

Reached by telephone, Abu Ghazaleh denied receiving any threats.

Friday's Palestinian fatalities included Marwan Abu Taman, 19, of the West Bank town of Tulkarem.

## Israeli police chief assails officers posing as journalists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's chief of police pledged Friday to stop officers posing as journalists to catch Palestinian activists, saying the unauthorised practice endangered the lives of correspondents.

Also Friday, Police Minister Chaim Bar Lev said a high-level committee was appointed to probe report.

Photographers filmed two plainclothes officers travelling in a car marked "press" Thursday. The policemen were later seen making arrests and one stood on a teenage girl while a uniformed officer beat her beside a street in Arab Jerusalem.

Police Chief David Kraus told army radio the officers apparently acted on their own initiative. He promised a swift investigation and said such ruses must stop.

"I take a grave view of the apparent use of unreasonable force and of the apparent disguising of the vehicle as a press car," he said. "Journalists who work in the area could be attacked because of this activity."

Israeli and foreign correspondents reporting on the 15-month-old uprising against Israeli rule of East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip complained that the use of such tactics sparked distrust among Palestinians.

"We simply cannot have a situation in which we go out to the territories and try to cover the people and have them look upon us as potential police agents," said Robert Slater, chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Israel.

Army radio said there have been other cases of police making arrests while dressed as doctors and driving ambulances.

Kraus revealed 50 officers had been fired for acts of violence during the 15-month uprising.

## Aoun rejects ceasefire; U.S. withdraws assistance team

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese army commander Gen. Michel Aoun refused to accept a ceasefire Friday in the 17-day conflict with Syrian troops and Druze militia-men, saying he would not settle for "anything less than a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon."

The two sides started firing at each other Friday afternoon after a 14-hour lull, but police had no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Fighting so far has killed 81 people and wounded 253.

The American embassy announced Friday it was pulling out a three-man "technical assistance team" because of the violence.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said: "We are withdrawing the technical assistance team at the Defence Ministry as part of the embassy's policy of reducing American personnel due to the current situation."

The U.S. embassy source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one of the three Americans is already out of Lebanon on vacation.

The team arrived in 1983 to train local officials to use U.S.-made equipment.

The 75-minute news conference at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda was held after

Aoun held talks with Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al Jasssem. The Kuwaiti envoy told reporters the two discussed "a ceasefire and a solution to the present confrontation."

Jasssem held a second session with Aoun after crossing to west Beirut to meet with Salim Hoss.

Aoun, dressed in camouflage fatigues, told the press that the confrontation pitting his 20,000 troops against the alliance of Syrian army gunners and Druze warlord Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia was "a nationalist march to liberate Lebanon."

qualitative change. "They (the Americans) are now telling the Israelis that sooner or later they must talk to the PLO. They have to sit down, they have to negotiate," he added.

In public, U.S. officials have said only that Israel might have to talk to the PLO if it cannot find any non-PLO Palestinian negotiating partners in the occupied territories.

Schori said Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson had sent Arafat a message with some ideas for confidence-building measures towards a Middle East peace settlement. He expected Arafat to reply soon.

## PLO-Israeli talks inevitable — Swedish aide

TUNIS (R) — A Swedish minister said Friday that talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were inevitable.

"If the Soviets and the (Afghan) Mujahadeen sit down, if Iran and Iraq sit down, why should not the Israelis and the PLO sit down? Of course they will," Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori told reporters.

"I'm not sure that time is working for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," he added. "There are cracks in the wall. Shamir must now practice perestroika, the PLO have done it."

Schori, who met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S.

Ambassador Robert Pelletreau during his visit to Tunis, said the new U.S.-PLO dialogue had substance, stability and continuity.

Pelletreau led the U.S. team in talks with the PLO in Tunis last Wednesday. It was the first substantial session in the dialogue since the Bush administration took office.

Schori, whose country mediated between Washington and the PLO to make the dialogue possible, said both sides were "equally pleased with the nature of the talks."

He described the U.S. decision to meet the PLO and Washington's subsequent statements as a

## Bush praises talks with PLO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush praised U.S. talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in an interview published Friday and said he would try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "something good might come out of this kind of discussion."

"I will tell him that the talks that we... are having with the PLO representatives there in Tunisia are good things, and we'll tell him why I think they are good things," Bush said in the interview with the Washington Times.

Bush is scheduled to meet with Shamir, who refuses to speak with PLO representatives, in Washington April 6.

Asked whether he would urge Shamir to join the talks with the PLO, Bush told the newspaper, "I don't know what I'll say to him about that."

"But I'll say to him that we have got to move the peace process forward. We may, by then, be ready with some specific ideas."

Shamir, in an interview broadcast Friday on the NBC "Today" programme on the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, reiterated his stand against such talks with the PLO.

"It's not a question of talks," he said. "... For us it's a question of life, a question of existence. The state of Israel will not be able to exist together with a Palestinian state here in this small country."

Shamir called for Palestinians on the West Bank to forsake the idea of a separate state. "I am convinced that the majority of the Palestinian Arabs

will come to this conviction that they have to live in peace with us, and that the only way to live together with us is to negotiate, to talk in order to achieve some peaceful solutions. And the time will come for it," he said. "We are ready."

But former Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, now the country's science minister, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" he is convinced "that we have to talk to (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat."

Reminded that the Israeli electorate has rejected such negotiations, Weizman said that with "correct leadership" and "an honest way of putting an issue, you can change the views and opinions of the electorate."

Former President Jimmy Carter, who brought about the peace treaty, said on the ABC Programme that there should be negotiations with Arafat ultimately.

But, he added, "I think the first step will have to be direct talks between the Israelis and Palestinian leaders chosen in the West Bank and Gaza who have the full support and public endorsement of the PLO, including Arafat."

In Tunis Wednesday, U.S. and PLO representatives held their first meeting since Bush became president.

Arafat said Thursday that the 4½-hour meeting between U.S. Ambassador Robert H. Pelletreau and Yasser Arafat of the PLO Executive Committee was positive.

"There is a mutual interest and intention to lead this dialogue to success," Arafat said.

Bush took that view in the

interview, saying that in his meeting with Shamir "I will endeavour to convince the prime minister that something good might come out of this kind of discussion."

The Tunis meeting was the second formal meeting since talks began in December, after Arafat publicly renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

There was no indication whether a third meeting was scheduled, but the PLO chief's mood suggested the dialogue will continue.

Arafat confirmed reports from U.S. sources that Pelletreau had not asked for an end to the Palestinian uprising. He also said the U.S. team described commando operations from Lebanon as an escalation of the military situation, not as terrorism.

"Nobody can make such a request to me (on ending the uprising). No one can ask a people to stop resisting occupation," he said.

Arafat said he will shortly pay visits to Amman and Cairo for exchange of views with His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latest developments on the Palestine question before they start their contacts with the new American administration.

Speaking at a press conference, Arafat said that the recent developments in the region calls for convening an Arab summit as early as possible, since there are very important issues, such as the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the return of Egypt to the Arab League, which should be discussed at the summit level. However, Arafat noted, intensive efforts are currently underway to convene the summit.



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## Battle intensifies for Kabul-Jalalabad road

PESHAWAR (R) — Afghan rebels said Friday they had repulsed an attempt by government troops to reopen the road from Kabul to the besieged city of Jalalabad.

Rebel sources in neighbouring Pakistan said that a government force came down the road from the town of Sorobi Thursday, backed by a helicopter bombardment.

The rebels shot down one helicopter and killed three soldiers, the sources said, citing radio reports from the area. They also blew up a bridge, the second in recent days.

Independent confirmation was not available. President Najibul-

lah's government and the Western-backed rebels routinely dispute each other's reports of the fighting.

A Soviet newspaper said Thursday a supply column had failed to reach Jalalabad from Kabul, because the rebels had blown up bridges on the 140-kilometre road.

But an Afghan government spokesman said supplies are still getting through to the battle-scarred eastern city.

Spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the Mujahideen rebels trying to capture Jalalabad had sabotaged the bridge near Sorobi, about 60 kilometres east of the capital, under cover of darkness Tuesday.

Repairs were under way and the main road was still cut, but the armed forces had rigged up a temporary bridge and two supply columns had reached Jalalabad, he said.

Amani also insisted that supply columns were getting through to Kabul down the vital Salang highway from the Soviet border.

Prices in the bazaars appeared to bear him out, with Soviet-supplied bread and petrol stable

but oranges, which come mainly from Jalalabad, dearer at 130 Afghanis (\$0.65) a kilogramme against 100 (\$0.50) a few days ago.

Despite the optimistic tone of his briefing, Amani spoke of eight provinces, mainly in the south and southeast, which had suffered guerrilla activity in recent days. But he gave no details.

He said government forces around Jalalabad were standing their ground but not advancing towards border areas so as not to give "a pretext to the Pakistani warmongers to escalate their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

Despite Pakistani denials,

Kabul says the 11th, 17th and 18th divisions of the Pakistan army are actively involved in the Jalalabad battle.

Fighting was continuing around the provincial capital but at a less intense level than earlier this month, the sources said.

The battle for Jalalabad, the first major engagement since the last Soviet troops pulled out in mid-February, is widely seen as something of a test of credibility for both sides in Afghanistan's savage civil war.

Meanwhile Najibullah's government called on Western and other countries to send back to Kabul the diplomats evacuated on security grounds.

Turgut Ozal

## Ozal struggles to maintain support

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's reformist Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is battling to maintain popular support in municipal elections Sunday likely to decide his political future.

The poll for mayors and assemblies in 2,000 cities and towns is a major test for the 261-year-old conservative leader, who has said he may consider leaving office depending on its results.

Opinion polls suggest Ozal, Turkey's dominant politician since army rule in 1980-83 crushed extremist political violence, may take less than a third of the vote and lose some power centres.

Sources of his Motherland Party said Ozal was likely to drop aspirations to succeed President Kenan Evren, who as a general led the 1980 coup, later this year if his share of the vote fell below 36 per cent.

"I have promised the people to run the country until 1992," Ozal, an economic free-market leader who says Turkey's future is with the West, told the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet.

"But if in this election certain mistakes are made... making it difficult for us to carry on, I will seriously consider leaving my post," he was quoted Thursday as saying.

Ozal, who swept back to office in 1987 with 292 of the 450 seats in parliament on 36 per cent of the vote, made a similar threat last September before he lost a referendum on bringing forward the local polls with 35 per cent of the vote.

"If Ozal gets under 32 per cent he will face serious party challenges. He is not as invulnerable as a year ago and has isolated himself in the party," a senior Western diplomat said.

"He is turning increasingly to his family as main advisers and he is not getting good advice."

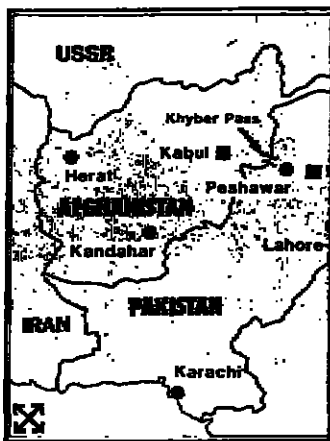
In a campaign marked by charges of economic mismanagement amid an annual inflation rate of 72 per cent, Ozal portrayed his party as the only democratic option for stability in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-member Turkey which borders the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"Votes that you divide among opposition parties will benefit separatists and anarchy-seekers. Do not turn local governments into places that can nourish anarchy," he said on television.

The opposition says the local elections are as a confidence vote in Ozal.

Erdal Inonu, head of the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), told a rally: "Our citizens can suffer more crises but those who created the present crisis should also suffer."

A poll in the popular daily Bugun said Ozal was likely to win 31.6 per cent of the vote, with SHP taking 30.9 per cent, the centre-right True Path Party 21 per cent and the rest split among minor parties.



A farmer might make \$400 profit from growing enough poppies to make one kilo of heroin. When it is smuggled into the United States, for example, it is worth \$100,000 to \$200,000.

By the time it has been adulterated, and passed through several hands, the heroin could fetch \$1 to \$5 million on the street, U.S. Drug Enforcement officials said.

## Middle East battles heroin 'monkey'

DUBAI (R) — Middle East countries, finding the heroin "monkey" on their own backs, are demanding concerted moves to seal drug routes through the region and halt growing addiction among their people.

Drug enforcement officers at a 16-nation conference in Dubai said only international cooperation could block a flood of drugs from poppy fields in the "Golden Crescent" — a poorly-policed swath of territory spanning the borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

"Up until the 1980s, we had no heroin problem here. Now we have a major problem," said Dubai chief of detectives Abdul Aziz Mohammad Abdullah.

The threat is also coming the other way as South American cocaine barons are creating a new market in the Middle East.

"A year ago, there were vir-

tually no cocaine seizures here. Now there is a kilo here, a kilo there," Mel Schabillon, special agent at the U.S. Department of Justice said.

The conference brought together heads of narcotics bureaus from such countries as the United States, Pakistan, Thailand and the Gulf states. Iran did not attend the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Delegates pinpointed the 10-year-old war in Afghanistan as a major factor in the rising trade.

Anarchy in the region after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 made policing more difficult in an area already renowned for its uncontrollable tribes, they said.

No one accurately knows how many acres such traditional farmers have in poppies, the flowers from which heroin is

made. An explosion in arms supplies gave traffickers a new arsenal of automatics, rocket launchers, and even light artillery.

Old clandestine drug routes through Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and India were rapidly expanded to carry the narcotics, helping turn millions of people in these nations into addicts on the way.

Iranian officials estimate one million people out of their 50 million population are drug addicts. Iran has executed more than 300 traffickers so far this year and arrested several thousand.

The crackdown since January has forced smugglers to turn to other routes and ports around the Gulf are dangerously exposed.

"Drug trade is like water, it always looks to flow through the point of least resistance," said Schabillon.

The two-week conference concluded that the powerful cartels which run the world narcotics trade could only be destroyed through an international agreement to confiscate their assets.

"You have to treat them like corporations. Take away their money, property, bank accounts, house, furniture. We all agree it's a necessity. If you cut off the head, the dragon dies," said Schabillon in an interview.

But the farmers who rely on drugs for their income present another problem. Education and help to find an alternative are seen as the answer.

"Maybe a small piece of land will support a family of six if you grow poppies. Potatoes wouldn't do it," said Schabillon.

There is a stunning gap between what such farmers are paid and the street value of drugs.

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## DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

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## PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:45 ..... Programme review  
15:55 ..... Children programme  
17:00 ..... Educational programme  
17:30 ..... The Friends  
18:00 ..... News summary  
18:15 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:15 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:00 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:45 ..... Local programme  
22:00 ..... Arabic play  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Play continued

## PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Couteau: A la Redécouverte du Monde  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... French varieties  
19:30 ..... Natural Phenomena  
19:45 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Just the Ten of us  
21:10 ..... Saturday Variety Show  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Ride in the Wind"

## PRAYER TIMES

04:12 ..... Fair  
05:30 ..... (Sunrise) Daba

11:42 ..... Dhuhr  
15:11 ..... 'Asr  
17:54 ..... Maghreb  
19:11 ..... Isha

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Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
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## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Khamatini conditions will wane and

temperatures will gradually decrease. Relative humidity will increase and there will be a chance for scattered rain at times, especially at the northern region. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be hazy with southerly moderate to fresh winds and rough sea.

Amman ..... 11/21  
Aqaba ..... 16/28  
Deserts ..... 10/22  
Jordan Valley ..... 20/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa ..... 734056  
Dr. Sulaiman Al Khayyat ..... 791880  
Dr. Ahmed Al Dagh ..... 676024  
Dr. Muath Al Qureini ..... 772528  
Firas pharmacy ..... 601912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shameisani pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Anjad 'Obeidat ..... (—)  
Al Shara's pharmacy ..... (983238)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Musa 'Odeh ..... (—)  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 985417

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 199  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 62209093  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 65639091  
Public Security Department ..... 650000 / 685111  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 6442816  
Al-Hish Maternity, J. Amn ..... 6444172  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 6647174  
Shameisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 645845  
Al-Musader Hospital ..... 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6672719  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Mahajreen ..... 7770163  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafeh ..... 7771126  
Army, Marfa ..... 89161125  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 6024050

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple ..... 300 / 400  
Banana ..... 350 / 300  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 300 / 250  
Broad beans ..... 120 / 80  
Cabbage ..... 110 / 70  
Carrots ..... 200 / 160  
Cauliflower ..... 110 / 70  
Cucumbers ..... 350 / 280  
Eggplant ..... 200 / 150  
Grapefruit ..... 280 / 220  
Grapes ..... 440 / 400  
Lemon ..... 350 / 300  
Lettuce (per one) ..... 100 / 70  
Marrow (large) ..... 180 / 140  
Marrow (small) ..... 300 / 250  
Orange (Shamouni) ..... 370 / 380  
Orange (local) ..... 310 / 280

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

## S. Yemen floods damage houses, crops

SANAA (R) — Floods in South Yemen have destroyed houses and crops and cut off water and electricity supplies, Aden Radio reported Thursday. The radio, monitored in North Yemen, said more rains were feared in flood-hit Hadramout Province. It reported from the coastal town of Al Sahr, 575 kilometres east of Aden, that rain had fallen continuously for the past two days, destroying 64 houses and damaging 140 others. South Yemen President Haider Abubaker Al Attas had formed an emergency relief committee to coordinate national and international assistance to rebuild damaged villages and towns, the radio said. No estimate of the total damage in South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, was immediately available, but the radio said the floods had ruined crops and government food storage areas and killed hundreds of farm animals.

## U.S. team in Iraq for compensation

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.S. delegation started talks in Baghdad Thursday on compensation for families of 37 sailors killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the American frigate Stark in the Gulf in 1987. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said a State Department delegation led by legal adviser Abraham Sofaer had arrived and met Iraqi foreign ministry officials, but it gave no details. Washington said earlier Sofaer would press for compensation promised by Baghdad for the air attack on the Stark with two Exocet missiles in May 1987. Baghdad said the raid was carried out by mistake. The U.S. government asked Iraq last April to pay each victim's family \$800,000. No money has been paid.

## Ex-S. Yemen leader issues warning

DAMASCUS (R) — Former South Yemeni leader Ali Nasser Mohammad, overthrown in bitter fighting three years ago, warned Thursday that violence could erupt again unless the government allowed refugees to return. "I hope they (the government) will respond positively because this would save the country more bloodshed and destruction," he told Reuters in the Syrian capital. Nasser Mohammad said 100,000 refugees fled with him to North Yemen or to other Arab countries and should be allowed back. South Yemen said this month it would allow more than 30,000 refugees to return from North Yemen. Nasser Mohammad said that if all the other refugees were allowed back he would accept President Haider Abubaker Al Attas's refusal to let him return. "I will be pleased to live as an ordinary citizen under the shade of unity between North and South Yemen after achieving stability for all Yemeni people," he said. North and South Yemen have been discussing possible unification since 1972.

## Soviet defence minister to visit Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitri Yazov will visit Syria Monday to discuss military cooperation, diplomats said Thursday. The Soviet Union is Syria's main source of arms and the diplomats said Yazov's trip was at the invitation of Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas. Polish Defence Minister General Florian Swicki held talks with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Thursday, officials said. Swicki, who arrived in Syria Sunday, has also held two sessions of talks with Tlas and visited an air force base where he met pilots and was briefed on training.

## Irish chief to visit Lebanon after deaths

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland's army chief of staff has been ordered to go to South Lebanon to assess the safety of Irish peace-keeping troops there after three were killed by a landmine. Defence Minister Michael Noonan asked Lieutenant-General Tadgh O'Neill to prepare a report for the cabinet on the safety of the 600 Irish troops serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). "He leaves this weekend to make an on-the-spot assessment," a Defence Ministry spokesman said Thursday. The three soldiers were killed Tuesday when their truck ran over a landmine near Israel's self-declared security zone. The incident took to 30 the number of Irish soldiers killed since the nine-nation UNIFIL force was deployed in 1978.

## U.S. seeks extradition of Lebanese

BERNE (R) — The United States is seeking the extradition of two Lebanese brothers indicted by U.S. courts on drugs and money-laundering charges, the Swiss Justice Ministry said Thursday. Switzerland ordered Jean and Barkev Magharian to be detained pending possible extradition proceedings following a request from the U.S. embassy, a ministry spokesman said. The order has little immediate effect because the brothers have been held in investigative custody in the Swiss canton of Ticino since last July while investigators probe into Switzerland's biggest drugs and money-laundering scandal. The scandal has already ended the careers of a justice minister and the country's chief public prosecutor. "The order will take immediate effect if a Swiss court releases the brother," the spokesman told Reuters. The United States would then have 60 days in which to make a formal extradition request.

## Ethiopian government recaptures town

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Ethiopian government has announced the recapture of Adi Quala, a town in Eritrea province which was briefly overrun by rebel forces. The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Thursday night that government soldiers and militiamen recaptured the town, 86 kilometres south of the Eritrean provincial capital Asmara Monday, inflicting heavy losses on the rebels. ENA said Adi Quala, which lies on the main road from Asmara to the rebel-held towns of Adwa and Axum in neighbouring Tigray province, had been attacked by a joint force of rebels from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The agency gave no details of casualties in the fighting, but it accused the rebels of plundering public property and sabotaging the Adi Quala's electricity and telephone services during their brief surge into the town. The EPLF said last week that its forces captured Adi Quala March 16, capturing 3,000 government militia men and shooting down a MiG-23 air force fighter bomber.

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

## QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## DEPARTURES

## Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

## (Terminal 1)

04:55 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Athens (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)  
11:50 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
12:15 ..... London (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Paris (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Kuwait, Doha (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
20:55 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

## ARRIVALS

## Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

## (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
05:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
06:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
07:10 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
07:10 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
07:55 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
08:55 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Doha, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:40 ..... New York, Montreal (RJ)  
15:30 ..... Miami, Vienna (RJ)  
17:20 ..... Athens (RJ)  
17:55 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:55 ..... Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
13:55 ..... Benghazi (LN)  
15:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
17:50 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
18:35 ..... Damascus (AZ)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:55 ..... Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
13:55 ..... Benghazi (LN)  
15:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
17:50 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
18:35 ..... Damascus (AZ)

مكتبة من المصطلح





His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday inspects architectural designs on display at the Professional Associations' Complex (Petra photo)

## Prince calls for dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday stressed the need for continued constructive dialogue between the various bodies in the Kingdom, saying that that serves the interest and welfare of the country.

Addressing engineers at the Professional Associations' Complex, Prince Hassan called on all engineers to participate in the regional development seminars, held in Jordan and enquired about the future role of Jordanian engineers in the Arab Cooperation Council states.

Prince Hassan said that the

issue of human habitat should be the major issue in any engineering future plans and stressed that housing schemes should take into consideration, a concept that in itself means the building of a new society. The Crown Prince called for using the good designs that take into consideration the best use of land.

Jordan Engineers Association President Laith Shubailat also addressed the opening session, saying that the association works on capitalising on the new ideas and developing them with a view to establishing highly technical and advanced industries.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**KING, SADDAM EXCHANGE VIEWS:** His Majesty King Hussein Friday telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of national issues of interest to the two countries. (Petra)

**CONGRATULATIONS:** His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable of congratulations to Greek President Christos Sartzetakis on Greece's national day anniversary. In his cable the King wished the Greek president good health and the Greek people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

**PAN-ARAB VIEWS:** His Majesty King Hussein Thursday exchanged views on a number of pan-Arab issues with Yemen Arab Republic President Ali Abdullah Saleh, during a telephone call the King made to the Yemeni leader. (Petra)

**4-KILOMETRE RACE:** A total of 1,100 people Friday participated in a four-kilometre race on the International Woman's Day anniversary. Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor in presenting medals and cups to the winners. (Petra)

**IRAQI MESSAGE:** Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday received a message from Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. The message was delivered by Ramadan's office director who was received by Rifai at a special meeting attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jaseem Hussein. (Petra)

**VIOLATIONS:** A meeting was held Thursday at the Prime Ministry to discuss violations reported by the Audit Bureau for the year 1987. These violations are related to the Ministry of Social Development, the Civil Aviation Authority, and the Aqaba Railway Corporation. During the meeting, discussions focused on the violations as the conferees expressed readiness to review them and do whatever possible to correct them. (Petra)

**SENTENCES:** The Military Governor has endorsed a military court's verdict sentencing Saad Atallah Jamal Fakhr to nine months in prison and payment of a JD 400 fine after finding him guilty of embezzling public funds. The military governor also endorsed a verdict sentencing Salem Abdul Hafiz Mohammad to three years imprisonment and a fine of JD 1,200 after finding him guilty of the acquisition of hashish. (Petra)

**CHICKENS ARE HERE:** 2,000 tonnes of frozen chicken arrived in Aqaba Port Wednesday and will be put for sale at the shops and supermarkets as of Saturday. Ministry of Supply sources said Wednesday. The sources added that another 2,000 tonnes of the commodity will arrive via the port at the end of this month, to be put up for sale at the markets during the fasting month of Ramadan. (Petra)

**TOURISM:** Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat Thursday discussed with a visiting Japanese team means of promoting and marketing Jordanian tourism in Japan. Hikmat also reviewed with them the available tourist investment opportunities and the tourist programmes that can be marketed in Japan. (Petra)

**NEW INDUSTRIAL CITY:** Al Hussein Industrial City, constructed in Irbid at a cost of JD 6.5 million will be open to investors as of the beginning of April, according to Jordan Industrial Cities Organisation Director-General Fayez Suheimat. (Petra)

**AVIATION:** Directors of airline companies in the four countries of the Arab Cooperation Council, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, meet in Cairo Sunday to draw up a strategy for civil aviation and to discuss the necessary steps for achieving the greatest degree of coordination among them. (Petra)

**HORTICULTURE:** University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Majali Monday opens the first regional symposium on horticulture in Jordan and the neighbouring countries. The symposium, which lasts four days, is organised by the university's faculty of agriculture in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. (J.T.)

**FRANCE:** Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat Al Hadithi, Mauritanian Finance and Economy Minister Mohammad Ould Nani, and Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammad Baradi arrived in Amman Thursday to participate in the annual meetings of the Arab Financial Institutions due to begin in Amman Saturday. (Petra)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Lawehdeh.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Yasra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.

### CONCERT

- ★ A concert by Mstislav Rostropovich, "the grand master of the cello," at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:30 p.m.

## Hindawi: New school curricula in 4 years

AQABA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Thursday said the new school curricula will be applicable to all educational stages within the next four years.

At a meeting with education personnel in Aqaba district, Hindawi said the new curricula are designed to meet requirements of the educational development process and avoid any shortcomings in terms of content, method and objectives.

Hindawi noted that the new curricula have been drawn up in accordance with solid scientific bases, designed to achieve objectives of the educational development process.

Hindawi stressed the role of

the school headmasters in making the educational process a success and highlighted their important contribution towards consolidating the modern school syllabus.

The minister added that self reliance adjustments to the new developments in the various fields mean continued development and improvements.

"Hindawi outlined his ministry's plans and projects, aimed at achieving comprehensive educational development, including all components of the educational process — school buildings, teacher training, curricula and providing the suitable facilities. During his tour of the district, Hindawi laid the foundation stone for the permanent scouting



Thouqan Hindawi

camp, which will be set up on an area of 35 dunums along the Aqaba shore. Hindawi also opened the Khadija Bint Khuwailid School in Aqaba.

## ATF to discuss political pluralism

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday inaugurates a symposium on political pluralism in the Arab World, organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

Taking part in the four-day symposium will be 100 Arab intellectuals and observers and media representatives from a number of Arab and other countries. The symposium will discuss through seven working sessions issues pertaining to political pluralism in the Arab and Islamic heritage and the contemporary

and traditional forms of expressing political pluralism, in addition to other topics. The symposium will also discuss two case studies one for the Arab Maghreb and the other for the Arab Gulf and Arab Peninsula.

On Saturday, the Crown Prince chairs the sixth annual meeting of the ATF's General Assembly. The assembly will discuss the ATF's report on the Arab situation in 1988, prepared by the ATF in cooperation with the Political and Strategic Studies Centres at Al Ahram newspaper.

## AOAD meets Mar. 27

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day meeting of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development (AOAD) starts here on March 27.

Participants will discuss a number of issues, including strategy of the organisation's work for the years 1990-1994, in line with the common economic Arab strategy and the resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

The board of AOAD will also discuss the organisation's budget for the years 1990/1991 and its financial situation, in addition to the organisation's contacts with Egypt to reopen the organisation's offices in Cairo.

Also figuring high on discussion will be changing the organisation's name, to AOAD instead of Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences, and the selection of a new executive board for the next two years.

The organisation's strategy stresses the importance of achieving administrative development in the Arab World to serve Arab comprehensive development and Arab citizens. It also aims at liberating the innovative powers of Arabs and highlighting the important role of administration in achieving and accelerating economic and social development.

## UNRWA plans delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — UNRWA's plans to provide some basic education to young Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been delayed pending further discussions with the Israeli authorities, UNRWA announced.

On March 21 UNRWA announced that it intended to take measures on March 25 to provide some education to the almost 36,000 pupils normally attending 90 UNRWA schools in the West Bank. The schools have been closed except for a new intermittent periods since February 1988 and have been closed continuously since January 21

1989. They have been ordered to remain closed until at least April 19.

UNRWA considers that the extended closure of schools is denying children their right to an education and particularly concerned that the youngest refugee children should be permitted to have the opportunity of beginning their education.

While the immediate reopening of the schools would be the best course, one which UNRWA has repeatedly urged on the Israeli authorities, the current situation calls for interim steps to maintain some continuity in the education of refugee pupils.

## Khreisat wins JPA presidency

AMMAN (Petra) — Voting for the post of president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the JPA board was held Friday. In these elections, Hashem Khreisat was elected to the post of JPA president for two years beating his competitor Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh by 84 to 81 votes.

The elected board members were shafiq Obeidat, Omar Abandah, and Salim Al Ma'ani from the public sector and Badr Abdul Haq, Mohammad Naji Al Amareh, and Suleiman Al Bar-mawi from the private sector.

Moreover, Abdul Hafiz Mohammad, Fayez Hamdan and Fakhr Abu Hamdan won uncontested as representatives of the owners of the papers.

The JPA general assembly met earlier and discussed the administrative and financial reports of the past year.



A journalist congratulates new JPA President Hashem Khreisat (left).

## Cancer conference stresses importance of early diagnosis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first cancer conference convening at the University of Jordan concluded its sessions Friday. Addressing the final session, Jordan Cancer Prevention Society (JCPS) President Dr. Walid Turk noted that over sixty research papers related to various types of cancer had been discussed during the four-day conference. These research papers reflected an unanimous desire to ensure early diagnosis of cancer as well as studying the environmental factors causing it,

as well as treatment of breast cancer. The conferees expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted in preparing for this conference.

The JCPS intends to convene periodic cancer conferences every two years, Turk said. Specialists from Jordan, the United States, Britain, Italy, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iraq participated in the conference.

At the conclusion of the conference, the conferees sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Noor for inaugurating the conference and for her special interest in the scientific subjects discussed. In their cable, they lauded the Queen's support for the JCPS and expressed readiness to continue their serious work so as to ensure early diagnosis of cancer and educate the public in this regard.

## Arab health ministers conclude Tripoli meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Participants in the meetings of the Council of Arab Health Ministers have recommended promoting medical services in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, undertaking immediate measures to transfer the financial aid presented by the council to the people of the intifada in the occupied territories, providing the necessary scholarships to physicians working there, holding contacts for the implementation of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) decision which calls for supporting health services in the occupied territories as well as dispatching a committee to study the health situation there, Minister of Health Zahair Malhas, who attended the council's meeting in Tripoli, said.

## 300 seats for Jordanian students Jordan, Egypt sign cultural agreement

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Naseruddin Al Assad has said that his ministry has sent a memo to the cabinet on its perceptions for scopes of cooperation among the four founding members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in the field of higher education.

Assad, who is now in Cairo to attend the celebrations of centennial birthday of the famous Arab writer, dean of Arabic literature, Taha Hussein, said that the ministry had proposed the formation of a joint Arab university, grouping members of the ACC. Assad added that the proposed university will be set mainly for higher studies and that it will be charged with supplying Arab universities with the sufficient number of qualified teaching staff to cover the shortage of teachers in specific majors.

He also said that the memo proposed the formation of specialised higher education institutes in the fields of marine sciences, ecology, animal wealth, water and other similar subjects.

The minister pointed out that all ministries have been requested by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to present their perceptions on future scopes of cooperation in the various fields, within the framework of the ACC.

Assad stressed that Jordanian universities cannot at present cope with the increasing number

of students and called for increasing the education opportunities and university capacity to absorb the increasing number of students wishing to join the universities. He called on the private sector to play its role in establishing higher institutions for learning, and national universities.

Assad and his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Fathi Thursday signed in Cairo the executive programme of cultural and information cooperation for the years 1989-1991. Under the programme, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education will provide 300 seats for Jordanian students every year, in addition to 110 seats in the higher studies institutions and 15 scholarships. Jordan's Ministry of Higher Education will provide 100 seats annually for Egyptian students wishing to obtain their first university degree, including 10 scholarships.

The programme also calls for the exchange of teaching staff, undertaking joint research and exchange of visits and publications. The programme further called for concluding scientific agreements and for implementing the programme of cooperation between the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University on the one hand and the Suez University.

In the education field, the programme called on both sides to encourage the exchange of expertise and information on teacher training and developing educational methods, in addition to looking into educational curricula and plans. Under the agreement, Egyptian schools will accept Jordanian students living in the country and will exempt them from residence fees, similar to what Jordan applies to Egyptian students attending Jordanian schools. The two sides will also exchange expertise in the field of literacy education and in the field of educational TV.

In the field of oil, the programme called for exchange of information and geological studies on oil and gas exploration, mining and energy exploitation.

In the field of information, the two sides will implement the provisions of the information agreement signed in Amman in 1985 and will exchange information films and radio and television programmes.

In the areas of tourism, culture and antiquities, the two sides will exchange books, publications and hold exhibitions in their respective countries.

In the field of sports, the Egyptian side will send Egyptian trainers to train the national Jordanian teams. Sport and youth delegations will also exchange visits, under the programme.

## Met. centre opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid Al Haj Hassan Thursday stressed the importance of information on climate and weather conditions for air and sea navigation and for all aspects of life.

He added that the daily weather forecast presented through the various mass media has become one of the basic services offered to citizens.

Inaugurating the \$500,000 national centre for weather forecasting, located at Amman civil airport, Haj Hassan said the opening of the new centre, which coincides with the World Meteorology Day, reflects the government's interest in developing and modernising methods of providing information on weather and climate conditions. He said the centre was equipped with the most modern equipment, some of which has been donated by the World Meteorology Organisation.

The minister noted that the improvement and development of weather forecasts contributes significantly to safety of air and sea navigation, which relies to a great extent on these forecasts.

The new centre is linked with civil airports and with a communication network and facsimile service. It is also linked with world and regional meteorology centres through a direct line via satellite.

**JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD.**  
Extension Announcement for  
**Tender No. 4/89 "Energy Conservation Project"**  
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. announces the extension of closing dates for above mentioned tender to be as follows:  
1- For receipt of prequalification documents 16/4/89.  
2- For selling tender documents 25/4/89.  
3- For receipt of the offers 12.00 p.m. Saturday on 17/6/89.

**CHAIRMAN**

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**Amman - Jordan**

**Tenders Invitation For Prequalification And Bidding**

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd announces tender invitation No. 4/89 for the Energy Conservation Project which shall include building of CO Boiler in F.C.C. Unit, Air Preheater in Crude Distillation Unit III, Waste Heat Boiler in Platformer Unit and accompanying facilities including all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to these new installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. on 16/4/1989.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available. Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at First Circle - Jabal Amman against JD 100 per set not later than 25/4/1989.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday on 17.6.89.

**CHAIRMAN**



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Editorial Director:  
**RAKAN AL MAJALI**  
Director General:  
**DR. RADI AL WAQFI**  
Editor-in-Chief:  
**DR. WALEED M. SADI**

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
Facsimile: 661242

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## Clear message

HIS Majesty King Hussein's impending visit to Washington on May 2 to hold talks with President George Bush on the Middle East will come in the wake of the official visits to Washington and the White House by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. It could not thus occur at a more opportune time. Likewise, King Hussein's talks with President Bush will provide the two leaders the first formal opportunity to discuss the issues of war and peace in the Middle East since President George Bush assumed power. King Hussein will bring with him decades-long experience of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including its Palestinian dimension.

As King Hussein's projections and prophecies about the turn of events in the Middle East have proved accurate over and over again. Hopefully, this time around, the U.S. government will accord maximum attention to what King Hussein has to say about the complications of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. None of the Middle Eastern leaders have been more involved in the Arab-Israeli conflicts than King Hussein who practically grew up with the Palestinian case and has seen and experienced all its various painful chapters unfold.

HIS Majesty has frequently held talks with American leaders in the past about the Palestinian question and its effects on the Arab-Israeli conflicts as a whole. This, however, is the most promising occasion given the long experiences of the Middle East that President Bush has brought with him to the White House. The bold steps taken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to usher in a new relationship with the PLO, both at home and abroad, provide the necessary fertile environment to set the Arab-Israeli conflicts on the right track. This is a window of opportunity to resolve the Palestinian case once and for all, as well as the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. The timing of King Hussein's visit to the U.S. could not be better and if Washington can be persuaded to free itself from Israeli hegemony, so much the better. King Hussein's trip to the U.S. will thus be seen as an added impetus to encourage the U.S. to forge ahead in its new path. Above all, King Hussein will carry Jordan's message to Washington in the clearest possible terms as to how the Middle East puzzle can be resolved equitably and durably for all sides to honour and uphold for good. The central plank of Jordan's message is not to take Jordan and Jordanians for granted in seeking settlements. It is the message of a proud country and people who will never forsake its duties to Arab causes and will not tolerate any trespassing on its own identity and independence.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Friday said that Washington is obviously trying to divert world public attention from the Palestinian revolt to the ongoing political negotiations going on between Washington and the PLO in Tunis. Washington wants to liquidate the revolt and wants the Palestinians to take up the talks in Tunis as a substitute, something which will harm the Palestinian cause, the paper noted. It asked why Washington is not asking the Israelis to terminate their occupation of Arab lands instead so that the aspired peace can be achieved. The paper said that intifada has never been and will not be a matter for compromise because it is a legitimate liberation movement to enable the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped land. The intifada has succeeded in rallying world public support behind the Palestinian people's drive to get freedom, the paper noted, and this revolt is bound to continue until freedom has been achieved.

Al Dustour daily said that as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir makes ready for his United States visit, the political arena in Israel seems to be in confusion. The paper said the Israeli political leaders are undecided and are split over the Palestinian issue. This situation together with the ongoing intifada has helped to tighten the noose around the prime minister who is reported still adamant and still determined to deprive the Palestinians of their rights, the paper noted. It said that the Israeli leadership will be facing the Bush administration in Washington after having faced the Europeans and the whole world, and cannot be allowed to go on aborting all peace bids and ignoring the world community's will. Therefore we are hoping that the United States will take serious steps in this respect and exercise real pressure on Tel Aviv to make it accept the aspired peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the situation in Lebanon and said that this mad war, and the shelling of residential areas must be made to stop. The paper said that over the past 14 years the Lebanese people have been living through suffering and great pain for no reason and not objective. It said that the current brutal battles can by no means allow one party to come out victorious and the killing of innocent people will never bring peace to Lebanon. The paper expressed hope that the Arab mediation task force will now double its efforts and persuade the Lebanese leaders to opt for peace and for safeguarding their country's sovereignty and independence.

By Steny Hoyer

THERE is no Turkish minority in Bulgaria. government officials insist. Bulgaria is a single-nationality state where all of its citizens, including those of Islamic faith, are descendants of Bulgarians. The descendants of those Bulgarians who are "Turkified" forcibly during the 500 years of Ottoman domination have voluntarily and calmly reverted to their true ethnic identity.

Such is the official explanation from Bulgarian officials regarding the name change by 900,000 of the ethnic Turkish minority of Bulgaria from Turkish to Slavic names. Since the 1950s the government of Bulgaria has been waging and winning a war against its Turkish minority. More than 1,000 Turkish schools existed in Bulgaria in the early 1950s, none exist today. Back then the number of imams exceeded 1,800, by 1985 the number had been reduced to approximately 500.

It was four years ago that forced assimilation by the Bulgarian government of the Turkish minority, who make up 10 per

cent of the population, assumed the form of large-scale human rights abuses. The campaign's goals were clear: eradicate any Islamic identity and erase a national minority within Bulgaria. From December 1985 the government compelled members of the ethnic Turkish-speaking minority to change their Turkish names to Bulgarian ones. The campaign was carried out by the army and paramilitary organisations — often at gunpoint and at the cost of lives. Reports coming out of Bulgaria indicated that more than 250 ethnic Turks were arrested and imprisoned for non violent opposition to the campaign.

Seydiye Tahirova, one of the few Turkish deputies of the Bulgarian National Assembly, defected to Turkey last September. Upon her arrival she stated that there are 1.5 million Turks living in Bulgaria today and they all now have Bulgarian names. Indeed, back in March of 1985 government officials declared that the restoration of Bulgarian names had been "safely completed."

Although the name change may have been successful, the Turkish minority has yet to accede to Bulgarianisation. Repressive measure aimed at destroying the Turkish community's cultural identity and restricting Islamic practices persist. The use of the Turkish language is absolutely prohibited and is punishable by fines, even though up to 70 per cent of Turkish minority are unable to speak Bulgarian.

In its latest semi-annual report on "Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act," the U.S. Department of State notes evidence of forced settlement of ethnic Turks to non-Turkish areas in Bulgaria and unconfirmed reports of government plans to relocate 40,000 Turks from the Kurdzhali area.

The campaign's goals were clear: Eradicate Islamic identity and erase a national minority. Restrictions on the practice of Islam are tied inextricably to the campaign to assimilate the Turkish minority. Most of Bulgaria's mosques have been closed. Muslim rites such as circumcision, weddings, and burials are severe-

ly restricted or forbidden. Religious education of children is prohibited. The Koran is not published and cannot be imported. Restrictions on travel outside Bulgaria make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca virtually impossible.

And those who protest assimilation or who attempt to practise Islam beyond very narrow limitations are punished. Dr. Ibrahim Ismailov Arifov, a physician, along with others, was secretly tried in March of 1987 and sentenced to eight to 10 years for producing leaflets protesting the forcible assimilation.

According to reports from Amnesty International four women were sentenced in 1987 to between six and eight months' imprisonment for having their sons or grandsons circumcised.

At last year's meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Amman, delegates heard a report from a delegation that visited Bulgaria in June 1987 to investigate allegations of assimilation and religious persecution. The report was

pointedly critical of Bulgaria's actions.

The Foreign Ministers at the meeting expressed solidarity with the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, deplored the acts of repression, and appealed to the Bulgarian government to observe its international obligations regarding religious and cultural rights.

At the Commission on Security and Cooperation follow-up meeting in Vienna, the issues of cultural and religious freedom for minorities in Bulgaria have been addressed repeatedly by the United States delegation.

Yet there are no tangible signs that Bulgaria is considering any change in its policies. Political cynicism is reflected in the official line, which justifies persecutions in terms of past injustices inflicted by the Ottoman Empire upon Bulgaria. The government's position suggests an unwillingness either to adhere to human rights standards it has pledged to uphold or to accept responsibility for the suffering it is causing.

U.S. policymakers are faced with a dilemma. The assimilation

campaign can be accepted as a successful fait accompli and thus a closed book. Or the more recent "openness" on the part of high level Bulgarian officials, spurred in part by the desire to gain full membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to enhance Bulgaria's access to Western markets and technology, can be met by a challenge.

Continuation of the status quo in bilateral relations could be interpreted as tacit acquiescence to Bulgaria's policies toward its Turkish minority. The U.S. must show this is not the case.

The immediate imperative is for the international community to exert greater pressure on the government of Bulgaria, before the destruction of an entire way of life to complete.

The writer is representative (Democrat) of the state of Maryland chairs the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. His article appeared in the Christian Science Monitor on March 2, 1989.

## Islamic protests start to rattle Turkey

By Hugh Pope  
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Pro-Islamic demonstrations swept Turkish cities this month, prompting the question — does an Islamic revival threaten the secular republic of Turkey?

The protests, sparked by anger at Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," were fuelled by a ban this month on women wearing Islamic headscarves at universities.

Hundreds of black-clad women and bearded men, braving riot police and arrests, marched repeatedly in several cities after Friday prayers shouting Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great).

"An Islamic movement is on the rise," said a diplomat from the European Community (EC), which Turkey has applied to join. "But the really interesting question is, where is the movement going?" he added.

The militant Muslim fundamentalism seen in the demonstrations was just one current among several competing to dominate Turkey's Islamic movement.

The 1982 constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

An Islamic revolution on the Iranian model seems unlikely as there is no single charismatic leader to unite opposition and the Turkish Sunni Muslim mainstream is basically pro-government.

But, 65 years after revolutionary secularists led by Kemal Ataturk abolished the Ottoman Islamic caliphate, the divisive potential of Islam in Turkey remains high.

"If the Islamic movement is left alone, it will stay quiet. But if any side tries to make an issue of it, it could be dangerous," said Binnaz Toprak, a Bosphorus University politics professor specialising in Islamic issues.

Housing Minister Safa Giray said the country would split down the middle if a referendum were held on the university headscarf ban, as suggested by some government ministers.

The constitutional court, the highest judicial body, annulled on March 7 a parliamentary bill which allowed women to wear Muslim-style headscarves on campuses.

Differences over Islam could also provoke a split in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Mother-

land Party, which includes both liberal free-marketisers and the pro-Islamic right.

Ozal's most popular vote-winner, Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, has made clear he is thinking of setting up a new party with secularism as a major rallying cry.

President Kenan Evren, military chiefs and other pillars of the secularist establishment have voiced worries about the Islamic unrest.

But almost all commentators say that any growth in the strength of Islam in Turkey is partially due to the 1980-83 period of military rule under Evren, a former general.

The 1982 constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

A trend of Islamification of society and the bureaucracy has accelerated under Ozal's government, with critics saying that Isla-

mic *tarikats* brotherhoods are increasingly powerful.

Budget and staff allocations to the state religious affairs directorate, which runs Turkey's 60,000 mosques, have grown faster than almost any other government department.

The number of state secondary schools with a heavy Islamic curriculum to train mosque prayer leaders has multiplied, and they now educate 13 per cent of all secondary school students.

Iran has criticised the ban on headscarves at campuses, and Turkey has in turn warned Iran not to meddle in its affairs.

But diplomats said foreign involvement in the issue in Turkey was slight.

Saudi Arabia backs its vision of Islam through Islamic banks and cultural associations.

Newspapers linked a covert war between Islamic hardliners and moderates to the mysterious murder this month of a liberal

Istanbul prayer leader as he came down from his minaret.

In the Black Sea mountains, sick peasants queue for days at a Islamic shrine to be chained hand and foot to columns in the hope that their illness will be cured.

In Istanbul, progressive groups co-exist with rigidly fundamentalist thinking in quarters where Koran schools look like forts and some women wear black head-to-toe coverings.

Minority sects range from a few Shi'ite Muslim Azeris in north-east Turkey to the Alevis, an independent-minded, heterodox Shi'ite sect which may number more than 10 million people.

Islam has its main political impact in cities where mosque-goers are dominated by lower middle-class tradesmen.

But the share of the vote won by overtly Islamic fundamentalist parties peaked at about 11 per cent in the early 1970s. It is now around six per cent and declining.

## Sweden in arms over bugging

By Alan Elsner  
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Disclosures on the bugging or attempted bugging of senior politicians has exploded into a major scandal in Sweden. It has undermined already rocky relations between the ruling Social Democratic Party and Sweden's secret police force, SAPO.

Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said last week he was sure that he was a victim of illegal electronic surveillance when he was Social Democratic General Secretary in the 1970s.

"I know I have been bugged," he told a shocked nation.

Then, the government said it had uncovered a plot to bug Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori last year in connection with the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

"This is damnable. It is absolutely terrible that things should have come to this," said a visibly shaken Schori.

Another senior Social Democrat displayed on television documents leaked to him by a SAPO member which he said proved illegal surveillance of party members by the secret police in the early 1970s.

The bugging revelations began after it became known last year that the then Justice Minister, Anna-Greta Leijon, authorised a secret probe into the murder of Palme, who was killed by a lone gunman on Feb. 28, 1986, while walking home from the cinema with his wife.

The covert inquiry collapsed when an investigator was caught trying to smuggle illegal eavesdropping equipment into Sweden. Leijon was forced to resign.

An all-party parliamentary committee investigating the affair quickly established that the intended surveillance targets were Kurdish immigrants to Sweden suspected of involvement in the Palme killing. But then new information began to emerge.

A senior state prosecutor told the committee earlier this month that not only Kurds had been bugged. Senior politicians had also been bugged and the surveillance had started as long ago as the early 1970s.

A bevy of left-wing politicians came forward to tell of their suspicions.

Social Democratic parliamentarian and lawyer Hans Goran Franck, who has represented Kurdish refugees in Sweden, said his office was broken into earlier this month, just after the latest bugging allegations emerged.

The thief or thieves searched the office, rifled through filing cabinets but ignored money lying around and took nothing. Franck

believes they entered to remove bugging equipment.

Communist Party leader Lars Werner, whose group supports the minority Social Democratic government in parliament, said he had complained to the police several years ago of suspected eavesdropping but had got no results.

His party colleague Inga Lantz told how she had once picked up the telephone in her office in parliament and heard a tape of a conversation with her mother being played back over the line.

Mutual suspicion between SAPO and the Social Democrats is nothing new. According to the testimony of former operatives, some members of the security force appeared to believe that the ruling party was soft on Communism.

For their part, leading Social Democrats including Andersson have made little secret of their belief that SAPO had been lax in failing to protect Palme, whether through incompetence or by design.

Asked last year whether he trusted SAPO, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson told parliament that he believed in the loyalty of all state organisations until con-

clusive evidence to the contrary was brought against them — hardly a ringing declaration of confidence.

Civil Administration Minister Bengt Johansson, who disclosed the alleged plot to bug Schori, said the deputy minister appeared to have been a target because he once met a Kurdish woman who later became a suspect of the Palme assassination.

Police were initially convinced that Palme was victim of a political conspiracy and concentrated their inquiries on left-wing Kurds in Sweden.

But the Kurdish theory later fell apart and police are currently holding as suspected murderer a 41-year-old Swede with a long criminal record.

Schori was one of Palme's closest aides and is considered a key figure in Swedish foreign policy relating to Third World questions and one of his country's foremost diplomats.

"I have worked with Pierre Schori for 25 years and I trust his loyalty 100 per cent," said Andersson.

After three years of almost constant scandals surrounding the Palme murder, Swedes are wondering what will come next.

## 'Safety valve' for societies

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — Freedom to talk and discuss politically sensitive issues in the media provides a "safety valve" within countries that actually leads to political stability rather than instability, according to Sanford Unger, who has been a familiar figure in the commercial and public press and radio in the United States for more than 20 years.

Unger, dean of the School of Communications at The American University, said because discourse is a social "safety valve," all people are better able to handle the free flow of information and ideas — rather than controlled information — regardless of the degree of their economic or educational development.

Speaking at a March 21 telephone press conference with journalists in Islamabad sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, Unger said there are no "degrees" of press or media freedom in a country. "The word freedom cannot be limited. Either one has freedom of the press or one doesn't."

Unger said the litmus test of that freedom is that "the public in

general knows whether the media is telling the truth or not." Unger said that "true press freedom is difficult to define, but we know it when we see it because it has a kind of public acceptance."

While there may be "intermediate stages" on the way to developing press freedom in some countries, Unger said "the important thing is that the movement should be in the direction where issues can be openly debated and discussed in the various media."

The veteran newsman also cautioned journalists against "cultural relativism" which claims that "certain countries are not ready" for freedom or democracy. A high rate of illiteracy in a society is not an argument against having a free press, he asserted. "The broadcast media can certainly be understood by people, and in fact in many parts of the world the media have been used as a tool to help achieve literacy."

In response to questions about the influence of special interests on the American press, Unger said, "I can tell you it is very difficult to control the American media." One reason, he said, is

that there are so many interests competing with each other for influence that it is very difficult for any one interest to seize control.

"I think that our media have managed to remain quite free, very vibrant and mischievous — outspoken at times."

Unger said the concept of a free press has grown because international boundaries are so "porous" today, it is impossible to circumscribe or control the flow of ideas.

Turning to the Soviet Union, he said glasnost and perestroika are a result of Politburo recognition that it is better politically to facilitate than to block the flow of ideas. "Mr. Gorbachev has seen that if he is going to make the kind of changes he wants to make, he is going to have to be more open in discussion of ideas, and the first place to do this is in the media." While there has been some progress in the Soviet Union, he said, "I don't doubt that there is still a great deal of control — a great deal of suppression of what people would like to say. There is still a long way to go" — USIA.

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## Mohammad Jalous: The struggle of the people for their homeland

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The present exhibition in the Alia Gallery is Mohammad Jalous' sixth attempt to "find the potential energy that lies within the forms of nature that are within us and that are dispersed as details that create abstractions." With these words Mohammad Jalous presents his tumultuous paintings that deal with a subject no less boisterous than war. They bear a predominance of the colour green, colour of optimism and vivacity with contrasting patches of red inters-

persed at different intervals, often as shocking forms crying out in disharmony because of the intensity of their hue, reiterating the courageous cry of the warrior that appears again and again in most of his figurative works. The warring figures are mostly stylised figures, men marching forward, their faces covered, their hands gesturing in signs of challenge and defiance. The figures are almost always placed on the first plane while buildings tower above, in the upper part of the canvas, in a boisterous almost deaf cacophony of rhythms, with a predominance

of curved windows and doors identifying the Arab Home. "My work represents the interaction of people with architecture. Architecture, of course, represents one's homeland," The artist explains. "The use of green is an extension of my past exhibition where the predominant colour was white." Two abstract paintings called "From Memory" are built on a basically cruciform construction, where thick white brushstrokes cover the red and green below leaving patches of those colours in the form of windows and doors.

The overall tilting of the compositions to the left, he claims, is meant and studied, if only to give movement and life to the paintings. Mohammad often creates a frenzied texture with a mosaic of small brushstrokes, varied shades interpenetrate to form more dramatic rhythms. "The wedding of the earth" is a work with an extensive format of 110 x 380 cms, painted on three simultaneous canvases. It portrays a roaring crowd ready to throw stones. Here again green dominates and is interrupted by

sharp patches of black haphazardly placed in the composition. Red patches also flicker, at odd intervals, portraying all that is heroic from stonethrowers, and the flag, to red hot flames from which tiny figures are fleeing. Above them, a couple of monumental hands carry a stone illustrating the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish "From a stone we shall build the nation of lovers." Calligraphy found on the facade of the buildings calls onto the Koranic verses that deal with martyrdom as not death but eternal bliss. On both sides of this vast work shapes open up and

spaces are larger, smoother and more uniform. Even figures are enlarged and done with more realism, a woman raises both arms in a sign of victory. There is a marked inconsistency in the work, be it in the size of objects and brushstrokes, or in the dispersion of colour and form. Its large scale requires that the artist distance himself from the canvas, recoils, enough to see it in its entirety and compose it as such. It is a very ambitious work that would normally require a great amount of preparation and sketching to arrive at a harmony that makes the work as solemn as

it is meant to be. Mohammad paints a few canvases with a totally different style. Retaining his use of green interspersed with red, he forms vertical undulating forms that fit within strict rectangular spaces filling a large horizontal portion of the canvas. Towering above that, in the centre, are impressions of houses. These are my latest works. They are very detailed. In the past, I felt details were irrelevant and I only worked with large spaces. Now I have more patience and care more for detail. Truly enough the part of the

canvas that is filled with the undulating forms creates a rectangular area that could very well be called a compression, in the manner of some modern artists. His best compositions are those that bear large independent figures, usually cloaked, coming forward towards the centre. Good perspective is created by their movement while the cloaks wrapped around their bodies give the artist a chance to create depths and volumes with the folds of the drapery. This exhibition will go on, at the Alia Gallery, until the end of March.

## Crumbling country houses — a blot on the Irish landscape

By Paul Majendie  
Reuters

DUBLIN — A bitter legacy of 700 years of British rule is dotted around Ireland — dozens of once elegant country houses crumbling into extinction. The landed gentry were hated symbols of the conquering colonialists and many grandiose homes were burned down in the early 1920s as Ireland fought for independence. What the torch didn't get, the dam did. Ceilings caved in, classical columns collapsed. Stranded hulks were left abandoned in a changed and hostile environment.

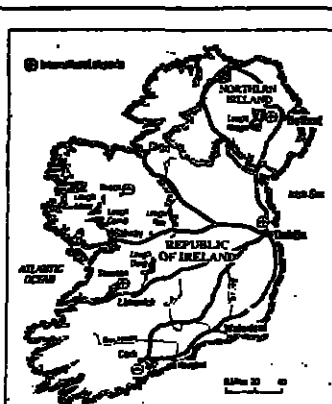
Irish art historian Desmond Fitzgerald argues forcibly that it is time to forgive, forget and restore. "This is our history. You cannot just erase it because it is colonial." "It would be very sad for people to come to Ireland and find nothing left from the 18th and 19th centuries to look at," he told Reuters in an interview. Fitzgerald, himself owner of an ancient castle, has helped mount "vanishing country houses of Ireland," a graphic photo exhibition that was staged in Dublin, London and is now in New York. It is a depressing chronicle of destruction, decay and dereliction and Fitzgerald said: "Only by putting on his rather terrifying catalogue of demolition, do we get people to wake up a bit."

Vanished without a trace He said there were only about 30 major surviving houses in the Irish republic and noted in stark contrast that "before 1914, there were 2,500 families who owned 1,000 acres or more and were resident landlords. Hundreds of houses have vanished without trace." But what of Irish nationalist critics who say why bother to save the fading vestiges of a colonial past. "The naive assumption that these houses are seen as merely memorials to outdated colonialism should be resisted because they are in fact treasure houses of Irish skills," he argues.

"Even if the upper classes were considered foreign, the craftsmen and the builders were Irishmen," he said. "Look at what is going on in Leningrad. They have symbols of aristocratic elitism but restoration there is seen as a glorification of Russian craftsmanship." He said the exhibition and an accompanying book that chronicles the destruction of 500 houses is designed to encourage the Irish government to establish a trust funded with state aid to salvage those that are left. That funding could come from the highly successful national lottery, he suggested. Ireland's tax laws were changed in 1982 so that major restoration work on country houses could be tax-deductible.

But Fitzgerald argues that what is needed now is a trust charged with saving the remaining key properties. "This is a cry to show what is disappearing. It would be appallingly irresponsible to let everything go." "What is really vital is that the few owned by the original families, and which still contain many of their contents such as portraits, furniture and memorabilia should be encouraged to survive because they represent an important element of Irish history."

Drown in a decade "If no life line is thrown out to them soon, they will all drown in a decade or so," he pleads in the book. "Tourism ranks as one of Ireland's most vital industries with the government determined to double the number of visitors and create 25,000 badly needed jobs over the next five years. Fitzgerald points out that 1.7 million people visit Irish country houses every year. "This country has a wet climate. People want to go inside and see things." As knight of glin and owner of a splendid castle in Limerick that has been in his family's hands



since the 14th century, Fitzgerald has had to develop commercial expertise to stay afloat. His castle, with its superb collection of 18th century mahogany furniture, takes in conferences and affluent guests in search of an elegant Ireland. "We have gone into the tourist business. These houses were built for entertaining in." Fitzgerald, hoping to jolt the Irish into a conservationist frame of mind, concluded "it would be ironic in about 10 to 15 years if there were no country houses left in Ireland and the only place you could see any would be in Northern Ireland."

## Profit, despair in Kampuchea's black market gateway

By David Storey  
Reuters

PAK KLONG, Kampuchea — Phuong, sitting at a scruffy table in a brothel with his tin of clean hypodermic needles at his side, looked unutterably sad. "I am a dog with no home," said the 26-year-old Vietnamese at Pak Klong, a cross between a gaudy black market and a squalid refugee centre on the first inlet on the Kampuchean coast east of the Thai frontier. Phuong, who interrupted medical courses to leave Vietnam with his family, abandoned his parents in the main Kampuchea port of Kompong Som four months ago to try to get to the west.

With his tin of needles, with which he earns a tiny income from administering injections, he ended up in Pak Klong, for some a gateway to trade with the west but for him a dead end. For him and about 300 other Vietnamese who tried to port-

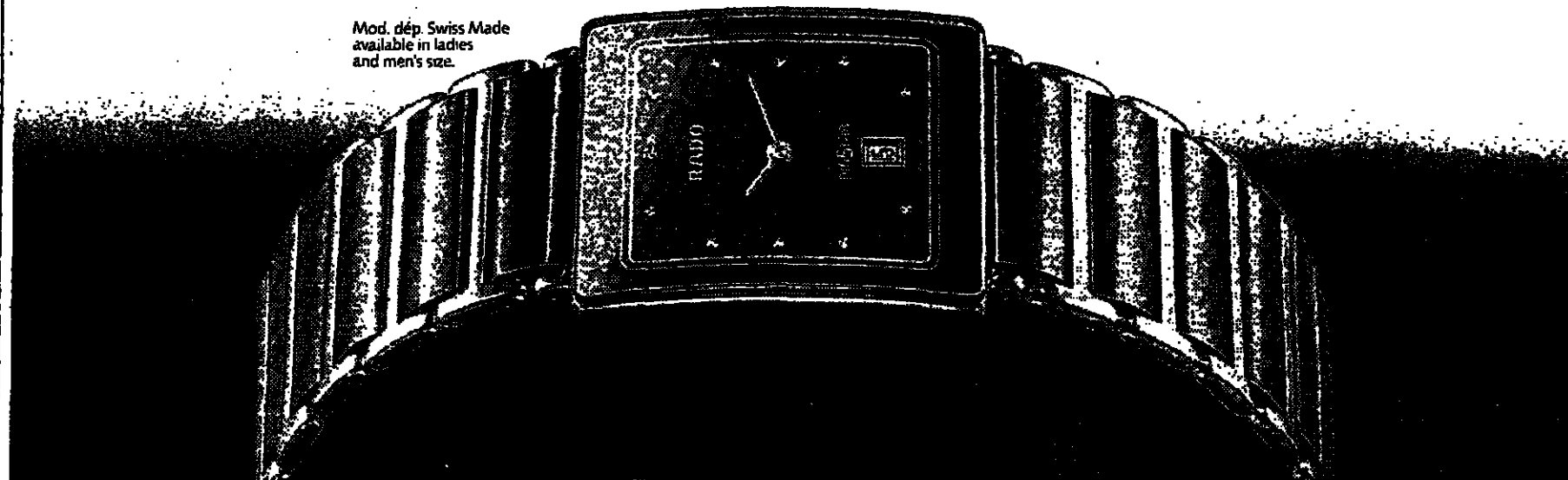
hop along the Kampuchean coast to Thailand, home is a collection of bamboo and banana leaf huts built on stilts over an open sewer. Their dispirited community mingles with the affluent black marketeers who have turned Pak Klong into a main distribution point for illicit trade into Kampuchea. The trade has turned an estuary village of only a few dozen people into a bustling town of several thousand. The waterfront of brightly-painted wooden houses presides over constant activity, unloading of cardboard boxes from fishing boats and small high-powered boats with outboard motors that ply the two-hour trip from Thailand. In the channel a rustling hulk stands loaded with second-hand cars and motorbikes transhipped from a less decrepit vessel from Singapore and destined for Kompong Som. A visit by dozens of Thai businessmen and journalists last

month was the first time the town was opened to such outside scrutiny for more than 14 years. The trip was made possible by the thaw in relations between the neighbouring states as a settlement draws near to the 10-year conflict in Kampuchea. It was arranged by a Thai businessman and member of parliament who has been involved in the illicit trade for a decade and who sees further chances for profit as Kampuchea opens up. Three western journalists tagged along, their Caucasian features drawing stares. "I once saw a group of Russians here but otherwise you are the first," said one surprised woman. While the Vietnamese carry

tins of water or sell their scrawny bodies for a meagre living, big fortunes change hands on the waterfront. An elegant-looking half-Thai half-Kampuchean woman sporting a heavy ruby ring and gold bracelets runs the bank. This consists of a wide wooden platform on which she sits behind a glass cabinet with three shelves. The top two are stuffed with Kampuchean riel and the lower one with Thai baht. "It's eight riel to 50 baht. People have to change their baht to pay their taxes," she said. "Taxes" is a euphemism for "bribes" to Kampuchean patrols. Close by, women sort through piles of marijuana.

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## Arab development institutions open meetings in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) holds its 15th annual assembly in Amman Saturday and Sunday in the framework of the joint annual meetings of Arab development institutions. These include, in addition to BADEA, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development.

BADEA board of governors, which constitutes the highest authority in the bank and is composed of the 18 finance ministers of the member states will examine, among other items on the agenda, the project of the second five year plan (1990-1994) for mobilisation and utilisation of the bank's resources, the repayment of arrears on loans.

The meeting will also look into the board of directors' report on the activities of the bank during 1988 and the auditors' report for the same year.

BADEA was established pursuant to a decision of the 6th Arab Summit (Algiers: November 1973) and it began operations in March 1975. It is a financial institution funded by the member countries of the Arab League

with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of the non-Arab African countries. To this end, the bank is given a mandate to extend loans and to provide the technical assistance necessary for implementation of development projects and to encourage the contribution of Arab capital to African economic expansion.

During the period 1975-1988, BADEA's financial commitments in Africa totalled \$874 million in support of 121 projects, 14 special agricultural operations, seven lines of credit and 44 technical assistance grants.

In addition to project aid, BADEA extended 37 emergency aid loans worth \$214.25 million to help solve balance of payments

problems in African countries from the resources of the Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa (SAAFA), a body established at the same time as BADEA (1973) and whose capital was incorporated into that of BADEA in 1977.

Including these resources, BADEA cumulative lendings reached by end 1988, \$1089 million and benefited 38 out of the 41 non-Arab African countries eligible for the bank's assistance.

The grant element in BADEA loans, which reflects the level of concessionality in the assistance, stands at an average of 38 per cent over the period 1974-1988. This average totalled 72 per cent in the case of emergency aid granted by SAAFA.

In compliance both with the development requirements in the continent and with the priorities of the national development plans in the beneficiary countries, BADEA focuses on the leading sectors and on those from which faster and wider expansion may be expected.

This appears in the 14 year sectoral distribution of aid where the sector of infrastructure accounts for half of the cooperation budget, while a quarter of

total commitments was devoted to agriculture. Industry, energy and technical assistance were beneficiaries of the rest of the aid resources.

Nevertheless, due to the recent exacerbation of the African food crisis, the rehabilitation of agriculture and activities related to food production was given particular emphasis during the last four years, as the sector was accorded between 34 and 61 per cent of total BADEA commitments for the concerned period.

According to BADEA classification, the African Continent is divided into two sub-regions: The West which comprises 23 countries and the East composed of 18 countries. Over the period 1974-1988, the West was the recipient of 55.6 per cent of total BADEA commitments while the East received 44.4 per cent of the total.

The various interorganisational concertations and coordination meetings held by BADEA with its partners during the 14 years of activities, materialised in the launching of 64 cofinancing arrangements with Arab funds with a contribution of \$1,433 million and 88 joint operations with non Arab partners with total financing of \$3,355 million.

## Economists praise Saudi management

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has set the course for economic stability after years of struggling against weak oil prices and financial crises, economists in the Gulf region said.

"They made the adjustments that a strong government should make to get the economy back on line," said a senior Western diplomat who specialises in economic matters.

"I shudder to think what would happen if Western governments were presented with the same policy choices," added the diplomat, who declined to be identified.

A healthier Saudi economy was expected to bring wider benefits from political stability and security to other states in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance.

Saudi Arabia's share of the GCC economic area in terms of total domestic output value has dropped from 76 per cent in 1981 to around 55 per cent, government figures show.

But the kingdom, with its close U.S. ties and role as guardian of Islam, remains the last rock of security to which the smaller GCC states look in times of uncertainty, diplomats said.

The forecasts of economic well-being overturned earlier speculation that Saudi Arabia had set itself optimistic revenue targets in an outline 1989 budget released in January and in a statement on economic policy by King Fahd.

But the economists said a closer

look at the budget figures and prospects for oil prices showed that planned revenues could well be underestimated.

The 1989 outline budget, at a rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar, called for no change in expenditure of \$37.6 billion and a 10 per cent rise in revenues to \$30.9 billion. The deficit would be financed through government bonds.

King Fahd cleared away uncertainties over revenue by saying last year there would be no spending cuts which would affect the public "such as salaries, fees and aid."

This was interpreted to mean that there would be no rise in taxes, tariffs or agricultural subsidies, all of which had caused domestic concern. He also ruled out a devaluation of the riyal.

The 1989 outline gave no breakdown for oil and non-oil income, but, if non-oil revenues did not rise above the \$8.5 billion of last year, oil income would have to provide \$22.4 billion.

With Saudi Arabia's oil output quota set at 4.524 million barrels per day, an average annual price of \$14 to \$15 per barrel for Arabian light crude would be enough, the economists said.

Prices look set to be higher for 1989.

Such figures do not take into account a possible rise in the Saudi quota or added revenues from the non-oil sources.

The economists estimated that non-oil income could easily be

raised by 10 per cent through the large semi-government industrial sector or by more efficient tax collection.

"For example, if you have a neon light outside your shop, that is a taxable item," said a Saudi-based bank economist.

The Saudi finance ministry is keeping a very close eye on spending, they said.

"The budget is a document under negotiation. The ministry is keeping an almost cheque by cheque watch on spending," said the diplomat specialising in economic matters.

A Bahrain banker said the

Saudi economy was also helped because the construction boom of the 1970s, painfully sustained through some heavy deficit years in the early 1980s, was nearing an end.

"The work there is mainly operations and maintenance related now," said a British quantity surveyor with Saudi business.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority estimated last year's nominal growth rate at 4.3 per cent, and 1.6 per cent for the non-oil sector, with a mild upturn in the 1.2 per cent annual inflation rate, the first rise for five years.

## Japanese expand investments in France

PARIS (R) — France Thursday cleared the way for the Suntory wine and spirits group to become the first Japanese owner of a French cognac house.

The deal by Suntory, already the owner of the Bordeaux wine estate Chateau Lagrange, is the latest in a growing list of Japanese takeovers of French luxury goods firms.

A Suntory spokesman said the finance ministry had finally approved a request to buy the century-old Louis Royer Cognac House, France's 12th largest.

The sale, held up by the ministry for several months, followed a similar request by Suntory which was turned down by the French authorities two years ago.

A bid last year by another Japanese firm to buy the prestigious Burgundy wine estate Romanee-Conti was blocked by the government on the grounds it would be tantamount to selling off a part of the national heritage.

Commenting on reports that the Takashimaya group was negotiating to buy the family-owned vineyards, Agriculture Minister Henri Nallet had said: "Romanee-Conti is like a cathedral... it is a work of art and it is priceless."

But Japanese firms have made inroads into other parts of the French luxury goods empire.

The Paris restaurant Lucas Carton, which boasts a maximum three-star ranking in the prestigious French gastronomic handbook, the Guide Michelin, was sold to the Asahi brewery company last July.

Carita, the hairdressing salons off the Champs Elysees frequented by international jet-setters and the French aristocracy, have been sold to a Japanese cosmetics firm, Shiseido.

While their business presence may be discreet, holders of the strong yen are much in evidence as the spring tourist season comes in Paris. Figures show they are the biggest spenders and now stay longer in France than other European countries.

Japanese buyers are also becoming leading buyers of French impressionist art.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### 45 firms seek oil contracts in Yemens

ABU DHABI (R) — A joint oil company between North and South Yemen says 45 international firms have applied to explore for oil in the two countries, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad reported Thursday. It did not name any of the firms. Companies from the United States, Britain, France and Kuwait have been searching for oil in North Yemen. The two Yemens set up the \$10 million joint venture to exploit oil sources in border areas. Al Itihad said exploration would cover an area of 2,200 square kilometres in areas where oil has already been discovered.

### OAPEC postpones Iraq-Syria case

KUWAIT (R) — A case brought by Iraq against Syria for its 1982 closure of an oil pipeline has been adjourned until May 22, an official of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said Thursday. The case was brought before an OAPEC judicial tribunal soon after Syria shut the pipeline which links Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields with the Mediterranean port of Banias. A hearing had been set for Tuesday. Iraq claims the closure violated a 1979 contract under which it agreed to pay Syria a transit fee in exchange for the transport of 10 million tonnes of crude oil annually through the pipeline. The closure forced Iraq to

build new pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia to export its oil after its main Gulf terminal was shut by the Iraq-Iran war.

### Egypt, Morocco sign six accords

RABAT (R) — Egypt and Morocco signed six cooperation accords and agreed to link up their economies in numerous other sectors during a visit by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki, a joint statement published Friday said. Accords were signed for a joint holding company in Rabat, with an initial capital of \$50 million to promote joint development projects, plus taxation, tariff, maritime, judicial and driving licence agreements. The statement said the high commission also studied the connection of electric power grids between North Africa and Europe, and a link-up between the Maghreb and the Middle East through Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey. The commission examined plans to develop investment in small- and medium-sized industrial enterprises and a proposal to give companies of each country the same status as private enterprises in the host country. It was decided to set up a special committee to regulate the movement of workers

### Algerian auditors uncover major frauds

ALGIERS (R) — Official auditors in Algeria have uncovered several major frauds in state enterprises involving millions of dollars in public money, the official news agency APS reported Friday. The frauds were revealed in a series of statements issued by the government auditors, the Cour Des Comptes, the agency said. It said the auditors discovered that the Sawou, a housing agency in the western town of Oran, misappropriated imported building materials worth 7.5 million dinars (\$1 million). They also discovered frauds in several banks, including the Banque Algerienne De Developpement Rural, a farm credit agency, which issued certified cheques worth 7.6 million dinars without collateral, it said. In another case, an insurance office manager in Jilel misappropriated 580,000 dinars (\$82,000) in indemnities he had obtained fraudulently with bogus insurance claims.

## Kuwait agrees to study investments in Thailand

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, seeking to expand its downstream oil investments into Asia, has agreed to study projects in Thailand including the purchase or construction of petrol stations, a Thai minister said Thursday.

Korn Dabbaransi, minister to the prime minister's office in charge of oil affairs, told a news conference Kuwaiti officials would soon visit Thailand to study investment in petrol stations, jet fuel marketing, offshore oil and gas exploration and the construction of a new oil port.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) already owns about 5,000 service stations in Europe as part of downstream investments designed to maximize revenue from crude oil.

KPC wanted to enter the Thai refined products market now dominated by Western oil giants, said Dabbaransi, who held talks with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Demand for refined products

in Thailand was around 300,000 barrels a day and was growing at the rate of about 12 per cent a year, Dabbaransi said.

## India squeezes Nepal

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's lifelines were almost completely cut Friday as India closed vital routes between the landlocked Himalayan nation and the rest of the world as part of a trade dispute.

Trade and transit treaties between the countries expired Thursday with negotiations for renewal at an impasse.

India, which blames Kathmandu for the problem, Friday closed all but two of the 13 transit routes on their common border, Nepali officials said.

Mountainous Nepal, sandwiched between India and China, relies on India for almost half its total imports and most essential commodities.

Although Kathmandu has said there are comfortable reserves of essential commodities, rationing of kerosene and other basics has begun already.

New Delhi said a temporary pact initiated last September expired because Nepal had not done the paperwork to put it into effect.

It now wants fresh talks, but says Nepal has lost all its favourable trade treatment won under

the expired treaties, including

several entry points for goods. Nepal's 39-year-old friendship pact with India has been a cornerstone of the kingdom's foreign relations.

But Kathmandu's growing ties with China have alarmed New Delhi.

A foreign ministry spokesman in New Delhi said closing most of the trade routes was not meant to create hardship for Nepal and essential goods like medicines and baby food would not be affected.

Nepali Foreign Minister Shailendra Upadhyaya will fly to New Delhi Sunday in an effort to revive negotiations, Nepali officials said. But they suggested Nepal was prepared to hold out for a favourable new pact.

"It is high time to restructure our relationship with India and if we fail this time we will be dependent for many years to come," said one.

"It should be the beginning of a more mature relationship between Nepal and India, and for this people should be prepared to face any hardship," he said.

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## 'Education—China's biggest failure'

PEKING (R) — China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping has called education the nation's biggest failure in the last 10 years and his top official for education policy said any blame should be shared.

"We have calmly considered this and we believe that education is a bigger problem than inflation," the People's Daily Friday quoted Deng as saying.

"Our biggest mistake over the last 10 years has been the insufficient development of education," the newspaper quoted the 84-year-old leader as telling visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Thursday.

Li Tieying, head of the State Commission on Education, the top body overseeing educational policy, told reporters Friday that was an accurate assessment.

"Education is lagging behind other sectors," he said. "I have been involved in discussions on important questions but the plan is made collectively."

Western diplomats said Li's position was not in danger, but Deng has been trying to show that China faces a number of key problems and any blame must be shared.

If responsibility is shared for educational failures, Premier Li cannot afford a huge increase in its educational spending. It will spend seven per cent more for what this year's budget lists as intellectual resources even though it expects a fourth consecutive year of deficits.

Peng, a favourite of party hardliners and former head of the education commission, would also be at least partly to blame.

Communist chief Zhao Ziyang, a close associate of Deng, has been attacked by hardliners for his role in hardline economic reforms that have led to record inflation.

Delegates to the annual session of parliament, meeting in the Chinese capital, have bitterly protested against neglect of the nation's schools, particularly crumbling classrooms, lack of textbooks and poor pay for teachers.

"Young people think it's better to sell snacks on street corners than be a teacher," said An Yifu, a parliamentary delegate and university president in the south-western city of Guiyang.

Universities have been unable to fill positions for graduate students and "as foolish as a graduate student" has become a popular term of derision.

China is short of cash and

### Health concerns

Deng reappeared in public Thursday after missing the opening session of parliament three days ago, and said he only wanted to preserve his health.

"I am not attending the current session of ... congress," Deng told visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. "I have asked for leave. I want to conserve my health and live longer," the official New China News Agency quoted him as saying.

Deng, 84, walked slowly as he greeted his guest at the Great Hall of the People, offering a prolonged handshake to let photographers capture the moment.

"Though I am old, I am alright," he said.

Deng described his absence as part of his effort to give younger leaders a more prominent role.

"I seldom do the daily work

now. What is more important is that I should gradually withdraw from the stage and let others preside over the work," he said.

Deng's failure to appear at the opening of the annual session of parliament prompted concern over his health.

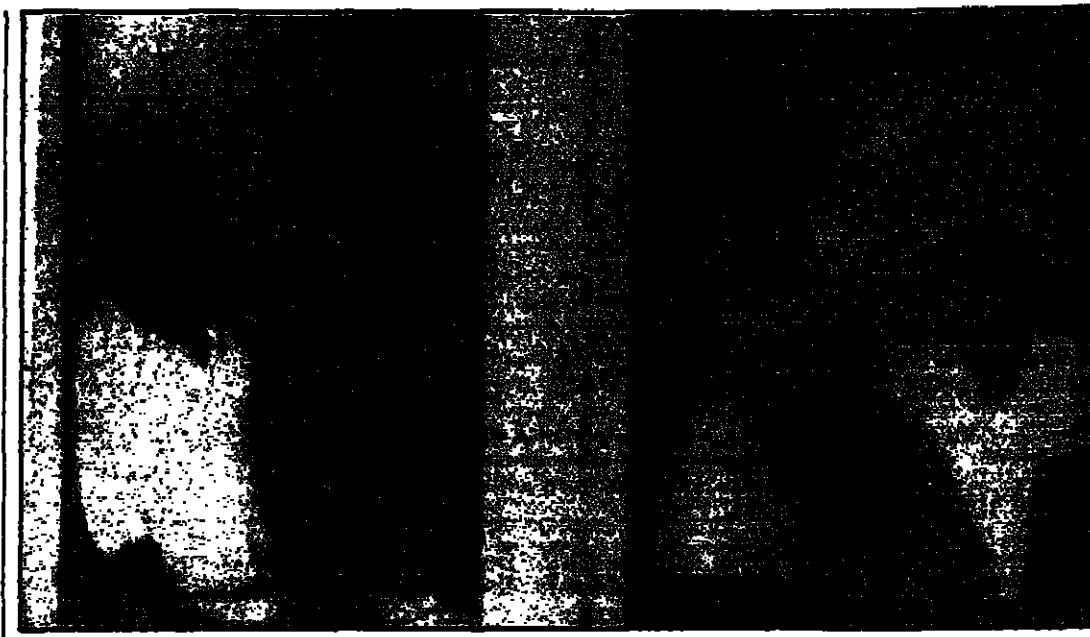
He had last been seen in public, looking well, last Friday when he met Thai Prime Minister Chuan Choonhavan for more than 90 minutes.

Deng's health is often the subject of wild rumours in Peking. While Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang is Deng's designated heir, it is widely feared that the death of the senior leader would not be followed by a smooth succession.

Deng, the architect of China's reform programme begun 10 years ago, has gradually reduced his political role.

He stepped down from all but one of his leading Communist Party posts in 1987 as a step towards retirement. He retains control over the armed forces as chairman of the party's Central Military Commission.

His work-day is usually confined to mornings.



Three South African students waved and a fourth detainees. The four, also detainees left the embassy watched from inside the West German embassy in Pretoria, where they demanded the release of political

## S. Africans protest detentions

DURBAN (AP) — About 1,000 people, many holding crosses, marched Friday through central Durban to protest detentions in South Africa, and several marchers paid an unauthorised visit to a hospitalised detainee on a 35-day-old hunger strike.

Sandile Thusi, in serious condition at Saint Aidan's hospital in Durban, has conducted the longest fast of any of the estimated 600 detainees who have staged hunger strikes of varying lengths since January to demand their freedom.

Thousands of people have been detained without trial since a state of emergency was declared in South Africa in 1986.

The government says it has authorised the release of 580 detainees, but human rights groups say several hundred others remain held without charge.

About 1,000 people, including anti-apartheid leaders and diplo-

mats from the U.S. and West German consulates, attended an early morning Good Friday service at a Methodist Church held in solidarity with the detainees.

The hunger strikers "are being crucified for the truth," said the Reverend Wilfred Napier, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, said at the service. "They are suffering for their God-given rights."

After the ecumenical service, the crowd marched through the port city's business district to an Anglican Church. The procession was led by two men hauling a large wooden cross and by 70 other people carrying smaller crosses.

Some of the protesters then delivered flowers to Saint Aidan's Hospital for Thusi and about 10 of the marchers walked past police guards into his room, where they began singing an anti-

apartheid anthem before being evicted.

Seven journalists at the hospital were taken to a police station for questioning, and video tapes were confiscated, according to one of the reporters.

The Law and Order Ministry said Friday that Thusi's status would not be reconsidered until he starts eating.

A church worker at Saint Aidan's told reporters that Thusi was in good spirits and said a police officer had hinted to the detainee that a breakthrough was possible.

The church worker, Ruben Phillips, said Thusi had been told by the officer, "You'll be a happy man on Tuesday."

Thusi, a 26-year-old university researcher, reportedly has lost 26 kilograms, or about one-third of his weight, during his fast to protest his nine-month detention without trial.

## Airport security tightens after U.S. hijack warning

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has warned airlines, airports and embassies of a possible hijacking plot in Europe, setting off a massive tightening of security.

Pan American World Airways, which had a jetliner blown out of the skies over Scotland last December in a bombing that killed 270 people, said Thursday it had received the latest warning "and taken appropriate action."

A Pan Am spokeswoman, Pamela Hanlon, told Reuters in New York: "We have increased vigilance to address the subject of the warning."

A government official in Washington who declined to be identified said Thursday that the warning was issued to senior officials in U.S. embassies in Europe for passing on to airports and law enforcement agencies there.

"No time frame was mentioned," for the date of the hijacking, the official said, denying

a report in London's Daily Express newspaper that the warning was specifically linked to the Easter weekend.

The official also denied that U.S. military personnel and diplomats and their families were told to alter plans to return home from Europe for Easter because of the hijack threat, as reported in the Daily Express.

"I want to knock down the report that special instructions were issued to diplomats or military personnel to make alternate travel arrangements based on this threat," the official said. "That's not true."

He said warnings were sent to embassies for relaying to appropriate enforcement and airport authorities in other countries, and were not intended as a warning for embassy staff.

In December, a similar warning was posted on a bulletin board in the U.S. embassy in Moscow but the general public was not warned of any threat. Shortly after, a bomb exploded

aboard Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

A State Department official said embassies had since been reminded that such postings are inappropriate.

The alert comes at a time of controversy over the handling of warnings before the Dec. 21 bombing of the Pan Am flight.

In Britain the Labour Party has accused Transport Secretary Paul Channon of failing to pass on to airlines detailed intelligence warnings about a bomb hidden in a radio-cassette player until after the jet, flying from London to New York, was blown up.

Lawyers for the families of Britons killed in the disaster said Wednesday they were preparing to sue the airline and two subsidiaries in the United States, where Pan Am is based.

They said they would claim for each of their 300 clients at least the \$100,000 already offered as compensation by Pan Am and might sue for punitive damages.

## 'Millions of Soviets live on breadline'

MOSCOW (R) — Millions of Soviet citizens live on the breadline with totally inadequate wages or pensions, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported Friday.

"We write very rarely about poor people — pensioners, labour veterans and invalids living on low incomes, about young families living from hand to mouth — yet there are very many of them in our country," the newspaper said.

Fifteen million people in the Soviet Union live on a pension of less than 60 roubles (\$97) a month, it added. Pension levels are normally decided by the level of wages in the year before retirement.

Pravda quoted a letter from a war veteran on a 57-rouble (\$92) monthly pension who complained she had seen little sign of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plans.

"In recent times they talk a lot about perestroika, but for us pensioners, life has become many times worse," she wrote.

"In the evening, when no one is watching, I go to the garbage bins to see if someone has thrown away any old shoes."

Officials have denied for decades that poverty existed in the Soviet Union but it has been a major theme in campaigning for Sunday's elections for a new-style Soviet parliament.

Pravda said it received many

letters about growing social injustice in the Soviet Union. As the number of entrepreneurs and rouble millionaires rose, the standard of living fell — especially for low-income groups.

Letter writers were not asking to buy mink coats but simply wanted to be able to buy the food and medicines they needed.

One letter writer from Petrozavodsk said it had cost 20 kopecks (\$0.32) to go to the public baths before they became self-financing under Kremlin plans to make enterprises more profitable. Now, it cost 50 kopecks (\$0.81), he complained.

A pensioner from Leningrad

wrote to complain that prices charged by new cooperative businesses were sky-high and state prices were going up steadily. "Sometimes, to tell the truth, I don't even feel like living," he said. "Yes, but in our times, even dying isn't cheap."

The price of coffins had risen to 132 roubles (\$213) from 46-65 roubles (\$64-\$105), he said. Pravda said price rises on essential food and consumer goods should be delayed, pensions should be index-linked and special shops should be created for low-income groups.

The state should stop throwing billions of roubles away on grandiose construction projects and showy palaces, it added.

## Kosovo promises to 'crush' unrest

BELGRADE (R) — Authorities in Yugoslavia's southern Kosovo province said Friday they would crush any further unrest there after the first riots since violent Albanian separatist protests in 1981.

Riots and shooting broke out in two Kosovo towns Thursday after the province's parliament surrendered its autonomy to Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic.

No casualty figures were released but Kosovo residents said hundreds of people were injured. Many fell to the ground with blood streaming from face and head wounds.

Kosovo's Interior Ministry said it would move quickly to stamp

out further disturbances after the riots which police blamed on "counter-revolutionaries" and "Albanian separatists."

"The Kosovo Interior Ministry warns that organs of the ministry will promptly take all legal measures against those who threaten peace and order," a ministry statement said.

Kosovo was quiet Friday morning.

The riots in Urosevac and the provincial capital Pristina, 220 kilometres south of Belgrade, broke out after the parliament adopted constitutional changes giving Serbia control of Kosovo's police, courts, civil defence and

selection of officials. The changes also give Serbia free hand to reduce further Kosovo's autonomy in the future.

Kosovo's 1.7 million ethnic Albanian majority see the changes as a threat to their political, cultural and educational rights. Serbia denies that this is the case.

The late Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito granted Kosovo its autonomy in 1974 making it a Yugoslav republic in all but name.

In Urosevac, 240 kilometres south of Belgrade, more than 5,000 Albanians defied a ban on protests and hurled rocks and bricks at police and burned a bus.

Some protesters fired shots after police used batons and tear gas. Many women and young girls were among the casualties.

It was the first rioting in Kosovo since martial law was briefly imposed in 1981 to break up Albanian separatist disturbances.

Croatian reporters said youths shouted: "We have sworn a besa (blood oath). We will die for Kosovo." The town was sealed off and foreign reporters were barred.

In Pristina more than 1,000 students clashed with police and a heavy security cordon was thrown around the university campus overnight. Major roads were under police control.

## Ships leave Corsica after blockade

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — The first ships left Corsica after a week-long strike and flights to and from the island were due to resume as protesters began to lift their blockade of ports and airports.

Two vessels left the capital, Ajaccio, for mainland France overnight, ferrying hundreds of people marooned for several days due to strikes over the cost of living, now in their fifth week.

Two cargo ships began to unload in the northern port of Bastia, allaying fears of further shortages. Cash, medicine, cigarettes and meat have run out in many areas, forcing shops to close.

Airports have also reopened,

but officials said regular flights would be kept to a minimum until several hundred travellers stranded on the Mediterranean island had been evacuated.

About 1,000 marooned tourists, who had been sleeping at ports and airports, were flown out this week on government-chartered planes.

The slow return to normality followed the appointment Wednesday of a mediator to end the strike by 21,000 civil servants.

Trade union officials welcomed the appointment of Michel Prada, a senior civil servant, but warned of renewed protests after Easter if the mediator failed to meet their demands.

Strikers have been demanding a 1,000-franc (\$160) monthly pay rise to compensate for high living costs.

The government is resisting the demands on the grounds that taxes have already been scrapped on items such as cigarettes and alcohol, and special subsidies introduced to offset transport costs to the island.

Residents of Corsica, hit by separatist violence for the past 20 years, say rents and food and petrol prices are far higher than on the mainland.

## Marijuana, cocaine stunt foetal growth

NEW YORK (R) — Smoking marijuana during pregnancy stunts foetal growth, leading to smaller infants with lower birth weights, while cocaine use contributes to a three-fold increase in microcephaly — small head size, a new study reports.

The study in the March 23 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine is the first to document marijuana and cocaine use during pregnancy on the basis of urine tests, rather than the less scientific method of interviews, among a large population.

"Smaller babies in general have more health and developmental problems and cocaine and marijuana use during pregnancy are each associated with poor foetal growth," said Barry Zuckerman of Boston University School of Medicine and Boston City Hospital, the lead author of the study.

"Cocaine's effects on the central nervous system in infants is truly alarming," said co-author Howard Bauchner.

Previous reports on cocaine use

have been parts of relatively small studies among women addicted to drugs, making it difficult to identify the independent effects of cocaine, Bauchner said.

Some previous reports show marijuana affects the foetus while others show no effect because the drug is illegal and pregnant women may be reluctant to report they are using it.

"If we relied only on self-reporting, or interviews, we would have found no association between poor foetal growth and marijuana use," said Zuckerman.

Zuckerman's group studied 1,226 mothers and their infants at a pre-natal clinic at Boston City Hospital. Twenty-seven per cent or 331 of the women had used marijuana during pregnancy and 18 per cent or 216 had used cocaine on the basis of a urine assay, interview or both, the study said.

Women who tested positive for marijuana had babies who weighed 79 grammes less than infants of women who had not used marijuana.

## Cypriot trade group to visit Amman

A HIGH rank Cypriot Trade Mission will arrive in Amman April 2, in order to participate in the Cypriot Products Exhibition that will be organised at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel from April 3-6.

The trade mission consists of a large number of leading industrial and commercial businessmen.

It is worth mentioning that during the last few years, the Republic of Cyprus represented by its Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Nicosia, organised several large exhibitions that were highly appreciated by Jordanian industrial and commercial businessmen.

These efforts helped in laying the foundation for cooperative links in the industrial and commercial sectors between the two friendly countries.

## Peking's first wig shop sells honey blondes, henna reds

By Robert Baster

Reuters

PEKING — Peking's first wig shop has opened its pink doors, wedged in among dusty grey rows of stores selling tyres and tools.

The wigs are made in China, but many of the samples perched on white display dummies feature long Western styles in such decidedly non-Chinese shades as henna red and honey blonde.

People have not been waiting in line to push inside the two-month-old boutique, but gradually, bold women and bald men are venturing in to try on the hairpieces.

It was only a matter of time

before wigs appeared in a country where plastic surgery is on the increase, where the amount spent on cosmetics is mushrooming, and where fashion shows have become commonplace.

"Twenty years ago this shop would have been destroyed," Hu Jiamin, the 35-year-old hairdresser who runs the place, says with a hearty laugh. "But that is history."

Less than two decades ago, Red Guards were likely to burn anything remotely Western.

Hu, by Peking standards a non-traditional dresser right down to his orange boots, says he learned first-hand in his hairdressing days exactly how

many Chinese women were unhappy with the colour and style of their hair.

The shiny nylon wigs offered at the Peking wig shop are made in a factory in Shandong Province. In China, where numerical groupings such as "the gang of four" are traditional, the factory's products have been labelled "the three falses" — wigs, hairpieces and false eyelashes.

They are aimed primarily at a lucrative export market. A government report on the overseas potential for the "three falses" speaks with relish about the 480,000 Japanese who wear wigs, and a supposed \$800 million annual demand for false eyelashes

worldwide.

The decision to divert some of the factory's products to sell in Peking followed a four-month feasibility study, which Hu says found a large number of young and middle-aged Chinese wanted to be able to radically change their appearance when the mood hit them.

"Many of our customers are women who have to look a certain way for their daytime jobs," explains a salesman in the shop. "But at night they dress up and go dancing, and they want to be able to look different."

The wigs range from about 100 yuan to 250 yuan (\$25 to \$70), a hefty price in a country where the average annual wage

is just a few hundred dollars in the cities, and even less in the countryside.

But in the new reformist China, where private enterprise has created a small but growing high-income group, there are some who can afford such diversions. And those who haven't the money to buy a wig have the option of renting one for an evening for a little over a dollar.

Sales figures are difficult to pin down. Hu says his shop is selling 10 wigs a day on average, but another salesman said it was more like two a day. Nonetheless, Hu optimistically hopes to hit 500 a month soon, and there are plans for several other branches.

Hu said the blonde and red wigs account for about 10 per cent of his sales so far. Chinese women as blondes and redheads? "The Chinese lifestyle is changing," Hu shrugs.

Similarly, in an atmosphere of renewed emphasis on youth — many of the men governing the country now are only in their 60s instead of their 80s — Chinese men are showing an interest in covering bald spots and receding hairlines.

In addition to wanting change just for the sake of change, Hu's customers often say they want to look like a movie star.

"Mostly it's Chinese movie stars," he said. "But also there are others."

## COLUMN

### Ungaro bucks the trend

PARIS (R) — Bucking the trend for looser shapes and blocks of colour, designer Emanuel Ungaro last week stuck to his current favourites — short skirts, power shoulders and a riot of flowered patterns. In contrast to January's haute couture show, where Ungaro recklessly splashed crazy blossoms across jackets, skirts and party frocks, his autumn and winter ready-to-wear had the mellow charm of a bouquet of dried flowers. Faded buds blossomed on flared skirts, tight-waisted jackets and some short cocktail dresses. Apart from glistening, brocade suits, colours were quiet and understated. Similarly restrained were the smart day suits, which came in subtle pinks, creams and greys, and a selection of huge wrap-around shawls in mustard, beige and pink. Ungaro, a Frenchman of Italian origin, said he was aiming to provide women with wearable clothes rather than fantastic creations for special occasions.

### Watch fair in Basel

BASEL (Agencies) — Every year, everyone meets in Basel, venue of the 17th European Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair from April 12 to 19: Basel 89. For eight days the city in the centre of Europe becomes the world centre for watches, clocks and jewellery. Over 1900 exhibitors occupy some 100,000 square metres at the fair. They come from 22 countries. Last year over 88,000 trade visitors came to Basel. 30.4% were from the watch and clock trade, 31% from the jewellery trade, 19% were in both and 19.6% came from related industries. All were unanimous in one point: the Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair is a fair of world stature.

### Police crack down on absent Italians

ROME (R) — More than 200 paramilitary police swooped on Italian government ministries in search of absentee civil servants for a second day Tuesday. Italy's public administration is generally regarded as one of the least efficient in Western Europe, with nearly 10 per cent of the 268,000 ministry employees absent on sick leave, holiday, trade union business or health cures at any one time. "The truth is that in Rome there are a lot of people who work a little and a few people who work a lot," said Raffaele Costa, under-secretary at the ministry of public works. Costa, a Liberal Party deputy, compiled a report entitled "Sir has just gone out" last year which estimated that the average civil servant worked only 31 weeks a year and no more than three hours a day. Trade unions have condemned the raids as an attempt to depict all state employees as malingerers. "A police operation of this size a few years ago would have had people thinking a coup was being staged," one union official said.

### Captain misses the boat

PORTSMOUTH, England (R) — A nuclear submarine captain went on a drinking spree and missed the boat when it put to sea, a Royal Navy Court martial heard Tuesday. Commander William Pym's Roistering shore leave in Gibraltar cost him a £1,200 (\$2,000) fine and a severe reprimand when he admitted being drunk. Pym led officers from HMS Churchill on a bar crawl in the British colony last November which ended with them all singing on their knees in a "seven dwarfs" dance routine. He was taken to hospital and put under observation for 36 hours while the Churchill, a hunter-killer submarine, went to sea without him.

### The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	04	39	10 50 Rain
ATHENS	10	50	17 67 Clear
BAHRAIN	25	70	30 79 Clear
BANGKOK	18	84	26 79 Clear
Buenos Aires	10	64	25 78 Cloudy
CAIRO	16	61	31 85 Clear
CHICAGO	02	27	13 56 Clear
COPENHAGEN	02	38	07 45 Rain
FRANKFURT	02	38	10 50 Clear
GENEVA	09	43	10 50 Clear
HONG KONG	21	73	73 73 Clear
ISTANBUL	07	45	12 54 Cloudy
LONDON	06	45	13 55 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	55	21 70 Rain
MADRID	04	39	22 72 Clear
MECCA	22	72	35 80 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	73	25 79 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	38	10 50 Clear
MOSCOW	05	41	10 50 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	19	68	30 85 Cloudy
NEW YORK	01	34	09 48 Clear
PARIS	09	43	11 52 Cloudy
ROME	04	39	20 69 Clear
TOKYO	06	46	11 52 Cloudy
VIENNA	02	36	14 57 Clear

M - indicates missing information.